

Instruction

Homework

Homework is an extension of classroom instruction and should be appropriate to the age, ability, and level of independence of students. Homework shall be carefully planned, communicated, and evaluated for its purpose, appropriateness, value, and consistency across grade levels and courses. Teachers should assign homework that:

- can be completed independently by students within a reasonable time frame,
- is aligned with learning objectives,
- has been clearly communicated,
- meets the needs of all learners,
- supports students in their acquisition of knowledge and skills,
- is comprised of previously taught content or builds the foundation for future success.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statute

10-221 Boards of Education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.

Policy adopted: September 25, 2018

AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Avon, Connecticut

Instruction

Guidelines for Effective Homework Assignments

1. Homework is an appropriate extension of class work. The assignment and its purpose must be as clearly stated and carefully planned as any classroom activity
2. Corrected homework requires a timely return in order for students to learn from the experience
3. Homework will be assigned only when adequate time is given to *prepare* students for the assignment.
4. Homework will not be used for disciplinary purposes (e.g., disruptive classroom behavior).
5. Complex, long-range assignments will incorporate clear directions, guidelines, including a sequence of tasks, deadlines, and frequent progress reviews.
6. Homework should not be assigned over long vacation periods, long weekends, or holidays.

Responsibilities of Parents

While students assume the major responsibility for completing homework assignments, parents are encouraged to take an active interest in students' homework by:

1. Promoting a positive attitude for homework
2. Providing a consistent time and suitable place for homework
3. Refraining from actually doing the work, producing any section of the assignment, or editing the finished project
4. Encouraging students to self-advocate and communicate to the teacher any special circumstances that may affect the student's ability to complete the homework assignment
5. Communicating with the teacher if the student is spending an unreasonable amount of time on the homework assignment

Guidelines for Effective Elementary Homework Assignments Kindergarten to Grade 6

Homework will be separated into three main categories: ongoing practice, written assignments, and long range assignments. Homework will be consistent with Board of Education Policy 6115.1 regarding religious holidays.

- A. Ongoing Practice:** Students at the elementary level are expected to read, practice their math facts, and prepare for upcoming assessments through ongoing practice. General recommendations for ongoing practice will be provided by teachers at each grade level.
- B. Written Assignments:** Written assignments require a student to complete a given task. Examples of this could be responding to text, completing math problems, or writing observations in a journal. In elementary school, written assignments will not be assigned to students in Kindergarten through second grade. Beginning in grade 3, students may begin to be assigned written homework in accordance with the guidelines below. Written homework will be clearly defined and able to be completed in a reasonable timeframe. In grades 3-6, homework will not impact a child's grade in a given subject, but will determine his or her mark in the homework section of the report card.

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Guidelines for Effective Elementary Homework Assignments Kindergarten to Grade 6 (continued)

Written assignments may be assigned within the guidelines presented below:

- Grade 3: Up to two written assignments per week
- Grade 4: Up to two written assignments per week
- Grade 5: Up to three written assignments per week
- Grade 6: Up to four written assignments per week

- C. Long Range Assignments:** Long range assignments are completed over multiple weeks. No more than one long range assignment will be given per marking period. In elementary school, long range assignments can be given by teachers in grades 1-6. These assignments will be accompanied by clear directions and guidelines. When a long range project is given, the teacher will reduce the assigned written homework by at least one night per week until the project reaches its due date.

Guidelines for Effective Secondary Homework Assignments Grades 7-12

In addition to extra-curricular activities such as sports and clubs, many students need to balance work, family, and other obligations. When assigning homework, teachers should be mindful of student's obligations and well-being outside of class. Therefore, homework should be manageable and consistent with Board of Education Policy 6115.1 regarding religious holidays.

Requests for Homework Assignments

1. Students in grades 6-12 are responsible for requesting their homework assignments following school absences. The teacher will provide the homework assignment no later than one day following the request for the homework assignment.
2. Students who will be absent due to a family vacation during the school year may be provided homework assignments that the teacher has already prepared, but parents and students should not expect teachers to prepare assignments in advance.

The special education needs and requirements in a student's Individual Education Program (I.E.P.) or Section 504 supersede the guidelines of this policy.