

HOMEWORK

Numerous studies show that the amount of time students spend on learning a skill directly affects their ability to master it. Homework communicates the high expectations that schools hold for their students. The best schools have confidence that their students can and will achieve. Assigning meaningful homework is one way of letting students develop confidence in their own abilities and encouraging families to participate more fully in their child's education.

The School Committee believes:

- A. Teachers are expected to assign homework that is appropriate to the grade and curriculum, to explain its purpose to students, and to evaluate homework assignments in a timely and fair manner.
- B. Homework is intended to help families become involved with education. For schools to do the best possible job educating each student, parents and schools must work together. Homework is one way parents can make a meaningful contribution to helping their sons and daughters achieve. When students see that their parents think education is important, their performance improves. Parents can assist their children by providing an environment conducive to study, encouraging them to work independently and providing positive reinforcement.
- C. Homework helps students develop self-discipline and organizational skills. Through homework, students learn how to manage their time. They learn the importance of setting goals and working to achieve them. They learn to be responsible for their own achievements. All these skills will help them continue to be successful throughout their lives.

The amount of homework assigned should be gradually increased from grade to grade. As students advance through school, it is reasonable to expect that the amount of homework can be increased, using the following guidelines for all subjects combined:

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| Kindergarten: | Teacher discretion; |
| Grade 1: | Teacher discretion; |
| Grade 2: | 20 minutes, two or three times per week; |
| Grade 3: | 25 minutes, three or four times per week; |

- Grade 4: 30 minutes per night, or 2.5 hours per week;
- Grade 5: 35 minutes per night, or three hours per week;
- Grade 6: 45 minutes per night, or 3 ³/₄ hours per week;
- Grades 7-8 60 minutes per night, or five hours per week; and
- Grades 9-12: 2 hours per night, or 10 hours per week.

Legal Reference: CH. 125.23, B, 5, 1 (Maine Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Adopted: May 31, 1988

Revised: April 27, 1999