

Book

Norfolk City School Board Policies and Regulations

Section

I: Instruction

Title

Homework

Number

IKB

Status

Active

Adopted

April 22, 1999

IKB. HOMEWORK

~~Homework can provide an essential communication link between the school and the home. One measure of a program or course is the quality of the work done at home by the student. A strong home-school partnership, with many lasting benefits for the individual student and his/her family, can be greatly enhanced by a sound program of homework. In addition, homework should be an important tool in developing independent thought, self-direction, and self-discipline.~~

Homework is an extension of the classroom and can be an essential communication link between the school and the home. Homework is a part of the learning process and is designed to reinforce and enrich skills and concepts previously taught, prepare students for information that will be introduced, assist students in developing good work habits and enhance the students' ability to manage time wisely. In addition, homework should be an important tool in developing independent thought, self-direction and self-discipline.

Not all homework is written, and may involve reading, review, or study of material and independent research. Teachers will assign homework in accordance with the needs of the students. Homework is not to be assigned as punishment.

Guidelines for homework include:

1. ~~Teachers should seek to determine the causes if a student regularly fails to complete assigned work. Teachers should not avoid giving homework because they believe students will not do the work.~~
2. Teachers and administrators ~~should~~ shall take appropriate steps to communicate with parents regarding the division's homework policy and ~~to~~ solicit their support.
3. ~~Homework should be assigned after introduction and thorough explanation of the skills necessary to successfully complete the assignment.~~ When homework is assigned, it shall be after the teacher has introduced the content and provided a thorough explanation of the skills necessary to successfully complete the assignment.
4. Homework ~~should~~ shall ~~not~~ be assigned without appropriate student preparation.
5. Homework shall be assigned in such a manner that it will be clearly understood by all students.
6. Homework shall be developmentally appropriate in its content, activities, and length time (See Table of recommended homework times in homework regulations, IKB-R)
7. Homework assessments and grading procedures shall be communicated in a manner that is clearly understood by students and parents.
8. Homework ~~should~~ shall serve a valid purpose and be closely related to classroom activities.
9. A student's access to resource materials ~~should~~ shall be considered when making assignments.
10. A student who misses homework assignments due to absences, excused or unexcused, or due to their access to resources, should be given sufficient time to make up the work and/or be allowed to complete the assignment while at school.
11. Homework ~~should~~ shall be reviewed promptly and ~~returned~~ feedback given to the student.
12. Excessive homework, ~~like the absence of homework,~~ ~~should~~ shall be avoided. (See recommended homework times in homework regulations, IKB-R)
13. Homework ~~should~~ shall not be used for disciplinary purposes.
14. Teachers and administrators ~~should~~ shall take appropriate steps to communicate with parents regarding the division's homework policy and ~~to~~ solicit their support.

15. Teachers with assigned Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate courses are required to work with their program coordinator and/or supervising administrator to ensure their assigned work outside of the classroom is reasonable. This can be accomplished by reviewing and approving a detailed course syllabus. Students should have workloads that allow them to be well-rounded and engaged in positive non-academic pursuits in school and in the community.

Legal Ref.:

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, section 22.1-78;
State Board of Education Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia,
VR 270-01-0012.

Replaced Norfolk Public Schools Blue Book Policy 6-59.

Adopted by the Norfolk School Board April 22, 1999.

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Norfolk City School Board Policies and Regulations

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I: Instruction

Title

Regulation of Homework

Number

IKB-R

Status

Active

Adopted

July 18, 1985

Last Revised

February 25, 1991

IKB-R. HOMEWORK REGULATION

~~Homework will be assigned a minimum of four nights a week which may include weekend assignments per subject. It will not be assigned over holidays except to complete long-range assignments and projects.~~ Homework will be assigned in order to provide teachers additional information by which to design relevant and prescriptive instruction. Teachers will use discretion when assigning homework and will not assign homework over holidays except to complete long-range assignments and projects. Teachers should take in consideration and be aware of the observance of religious holidays when assigning homework. Also, it shall not be used for disciplinary purposes.

~~The length of homework assignments will closely fit the following MINIMUM time guidelines.~~

The following length of homework assignments are recommended based on research:

PreK -K	<u>Activities should be designed to engage the family in promoting the development of socially and emotionally relevant skills (i.e. activities that foster positive attitudes, habits, and character traits; permits appropriate parent involvement).</u>
Grades <u>1-2</u>	No more than 20 minutes per night (to include all content combined)
Grades <u>3-5</u>	No more than 50 minutes per night (to include all content combined)
Grades 6	No more than 60 minutes per night
<u>Grade 7-8</u>	No more than 20 minutes per subject per night
Grades 9-12	No more than 30 minutes per subject per night

Students, teachers, and parents have a responsibility concerning homework.

A. Students have the responsibility to:

1. Complete all homework as assigned.
2. Ask teachers questions to clarify any problems encountered.
3. Inform teachers of any difficulties experienced during the completion of homework assignments.
4. Take home all necessary materials to complete homework assignments.
5. Secure assignments when absent (grades 4-12).
6. Make-up work is due within 2 class periods of returning to school

B. Teachers have the responsibility to:

1. Ensure that homework reinforces classroom learning.
2. Assign homework that meets the academic needs of the student while allowing for physical, emotional, and social needs.
3. Require the use of only those resources known to be available.
4. Assign homework that promotes creative thinking and independent research.
5. ~~Evaluate and return~~ Provide feedback (verbal or written) ~~homework~~ promptly to the student.
6. Maximize opportunities for students to complete assignments while at school that may include before school, during lunch and after school to allow equal access to assistance resources that may be needed.

C. Parents have the responsibility to:

1. Promote positive attitudes, habits, and character traits that foster strong work habits and independence.
2. Encourage the student to complete the assignment and work independently, but offer assistance, if necessary.
3. Look over the student's homework to see that the assignment has been completed.
4. Notify the teacher when family circumstances prevent the student from completing homework assignments.
5. Contact the teacher if there are questions concerning homework practices.
6. Help the student realize that reading and listening, ~~and observing~~ assignments can be as worthwhile as written homework assignments. Not all homework is written

and may involve reading, reviewing, or study of material and independent research.

Policy 6-59 replaced by Policy IKB.
Effective: July 18, 1985.

Approved by the Norfolk School Board April 29, 1999.

Revised: February 25, 1991.

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