

Policy

HOMEWORK/MAKEUP WORK

The Board of Education believes that homework relevant to material presented in class provides an opportunity to broaden, deepen or reinforce the pupil's knowledge. Teachers must use discretion in deciding the number and length of assignments. The Board encourages the use of interrelated major homework assignments such as term papers, themes and creative art projects.

Homework shall not be used for punitive reasons.

Homework shall be considered a necessary part of the learning process and a legitimate demand on the non-class time of students. A home assignment should be an extension of clearly defined school activities. In this regard, the students total daily homework load must be considered when deciding upon the length of an assignment.

It is the policy of the Plainfield Public Schools for students in grades K-12 to be assigned homework according to the following approximations:

Kindergarten	15 minutes per day for 5 days
Grades 1-2	30 minutes per day for 5 days
Grades 3-4	45 minutes per day for 5 days
Grades 5-6	60 minutes per day for 5 days
Grades 7-12	90-120 minutes per day for 5 days

Basic Principles

To be effective, homework must be carefully planned in accordance with the following principles:

- A. Students should be taught how to study before they are expected to work independently.
- B. The purpose of the assignment and its relation to what has been learned in the classroom must be clearly understood by the students
- C. The teacher should plan with the students not only what to do, but how to do it.
- D. Every homework assignment should be evaluated.

Purpose of Homework

In planning homework, emphasis should be placed on the value of the assignment, rather than on a schedule of time allotment. The purpose of homework may be to:

- A. Strengthen basic skills;
- B. Reinforce independent study habits;
- C. Extend classroom learning;

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- D. Develop initiative, responsibility, and self-direction;
- E. Foster worthwhile use of leisure time; and
- F. Promote understanding to parents to educational program.

Special Considerations

- A. Teachers should take into consideration the age, school experiences, and mental abilities of the students.
- B. Home conditions and material/human resources available should influence quantity and type of homework assigned.
- C. Time should be allowed for wholesome outdoor activities.
- D. Homework assignments should be as carefully planned as any classroom activity.
- E. Individual or small group assignments are often desirable in meeting the needs of students.

Responsibility of Parents

While the students should assume the major responsibility for completing the homework assignment, parents should be encouraged to take an active interest in the students; homework by:

- A. Promoting a positive attitude toward homework;
- B. Providing a consistent time and suitable place for study;
- C. Making available, if possible, resource materials;
- D. Assisting with drills;
- E. Checking the students' work for neatness and accuracy;
- F. Arranging with the teacher for limited homework assignments when the child's physical condition necessitates it.

A carefully planned program of home assignments may be a very effective means of increasing the students' learning. A well-planned program of homework assignments provides an opportunity for the home, school, and community to cooperate in the education of the students.

Pupils absent for any reason must make up assignments, class work and tests within a reasonable length of time. In most cases, a reasonable length of time shall be the same number of school days as the days missed.

Pupils being excused for any reason must make arrangements with the teacher of the missed classes in order to make up the work missed. This must be done before the absence from class.

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Incompletes

When a pupil does not complete work missed for absence or other reasons, he/she will receive an "incomplete" for the marking period. Pupils will be given 10 school days following the end of the marking period to make up the missed work.

If work critical to the pupil's understanding of the subject is not made up by the end of the next marking period, the grade for that subject area may be an "F."

If work is missing during the final marking period of the school year, the grade will be left to the discretion of the teacher. The teacher who has given an incomplete is responsible for reporting to the pupil the work he/she has missed and citing the consequences mentioned above.

Adopted: August 18, 2009

Key Words

Homework, Makeup Work

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 Religious holidays; absence of pupils on; effect
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of Board (county vocational schools)
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-10.1 et seq. Summer School Sessions

Possible

Cross References: 1320 Participation in out of school community activities
*1322 Contests for pupils
*5020 Role of parents/guardians
*5113 Absences and excuses
*5124 Reporting to parents/guardians
*6145 Extracurricular activities
*6153 Field trips
6174 Summer school

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.