

LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Policy 6154 Instruction

Homework

The Governing Board believes that homework should be meaningful, developmentally appropriate, engaging, and relevant to classroom learning. Homework should have a positive impact on student learning and is defined as the assigned learning activities that students work on outside of the classroom. Students should be able to complete homework independently and, as a result, further develop essential skills and gain deeper understanding of course content.

The purpose of homework is to provide students an opportunity to practice, reinforce and apply previously taught skills and acquired knowledge and prepare for future lessons, and is directly tied to classroom instruction. Assignments should have a clear purpose and be designed for completion within a reasonable time frame and according to board administrative regulations. Completing homework is the responsibility of the student. Parents can play a supportive role through monitoring, encouraging students' efforts and providing a conducive learning environment.

The Board expects that the number, frequency, and degree of difficulty of homework assignments will increase with the grade level and the maturity of students. The Board promotes student wellness and academic rigor, and to these ends, values quality over quantity and recognizes the distinction between load and rigor. The Board supports the practice of not assigning homework during school breaks, school-observed holidays, during standardized testing for grades 3-8, and prior to and during semester finals in grade 9-12.

Effective homework practices do not place an undue burden on students. The Board recognizes the value of extracurricular activities, unstructured time, and adequate sleep for a student's success in school.

Homework practices should be reviewed periodically by the teachers at each grade level or subject area to ensure alignment to academic standards and consistency of practices.

This policy and its associated administrative regulation shall be included in all school handbooks and secondary school course catalogs, as well as distributed on district and school websites.

~~Homework is an integral part of the educational process. In addition to reinforcing specific subjects in the classroom curriculum, it can and is to be used to develop quality study habits, to encourage growth of individual students to their full potential, to exercise communication skills, and to provide each individual student an opportunity to develop independent judgment and to logically connect or challenge facts and ideas. Emphasis should be on the quality of the experience rather than the quantity of work.~~

~~Assignments are to be meaningful and clearly explained to the students. Instructional materials must be clearly legible. Required written assignments are to be collected, assessed, and returned with appropriate comments. Teachers are to avoid placing excessive academic grade emphasis on homework assignments because grades should reflect demonstrable achievement under controlled conditions.~~

~~Time requirements are difficult to establish because of the wide variation of reading and work speeds represented in any group of students. There is to be in general an evolutionary growth in student requirements between grades K-12, and consistency is to be maintained throughout the district.~~

~~Beyond these guidelines, but in keeping with the positive role that homework should provide, the following parameters are established as general guidance (rather than as limits or requirements) in terms of time spent by the students:~~

- ~~1. For primary (K-2) students, homework should not normally exceed 30-45 minutes per day~~
- ~~2. For upper elementary students, homework should not normally exceed 1-2 hours per day~~
- ~~3. For middle school students, homework should not normally exceed 1-2 hours per academic subject per week~~
- ~~4. For high school students, homework should not normally exceed~~

~~2-3 hours per academic subject per week~~

Make-Up Work

Students who are absent from school, including students who are suspended, shall be given the opportunity to complete all assignments and tests that can be reasonably provided. The assignments and tests shall be equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the assignments and tests missed during the absence, as determined by the teacher. Students shall receive full credit for work satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period. Generally, for every day of absence, the student is given a day to make up the missed work. If a homework assignment is requested and is turned in to the teacher by the student either upon the student's return from any absence ~~suspension~~ or within the timeframe originally prescribed by the teacher, whichever is later, and is not graded before the end of the academic term, the homework assignment shall not be included in the calculation of the student's overall grade in the class unless it has a positive effect on the student's overall grade. (Education Code 48913.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians that no student may have a grade reduced or lose academic credit for any absence when missed assignments and tests are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time. Such notification shall include the full text of Education Code 48205. (Education Code 48980)

The teacher of any class from which a student is suspended may require the student to complete any assignments and tests missed during the suspension. (Education Code 48913)

~~Suspended Students~~

~~When a parent/guardian of a student who has been suspended for two or more school days requests homework that the student would otherwise have been assigned, the student's teacher shall provide such homework.~~

Policy LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Los Alamitos, California

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