

**WINSLOW PUBLIC SCHOOLS
25 MESSALONSKEE AVENUE
WATERVILLE, ME 04901**

HOMEWORK

Philosophy

The School Committee recognizes that homework is an integral part of the learning process. Homework should be meaningful and designed to help students develop constructive attitudes toward learning. Homework communicates the high expectations that schools hold for their students. A reasonable amount of study and preparation is necessary for the scholastic growth of students, and the amount of time devoted to homework will vary depending upon the student's learning abilities, grade level, or special learning needs. Since homework strengthens the links between school, home and community, it is desirable for teachers, parents and students to interact in appropriate ways in this important process.

Definition

Homework, for the purpose of this policy, consists of academic activities assigned by the teacher to be performed by the student by a certain date, with or without the direct supervision of the teacher, and assessed by the teacher after it is performed.

Objectives

- A. Homework should relate to and enhance learning in the classroom. Homework should offer the student opportunities to:
 - 1. Extend learning begun in class;
 - 2. Work on projects individually and in groups;
 - 3. Prepare for classroom work; and
 - 4. Reinforce skills or review materials.

- B. Homework should encourage a student's sense of responsibility, promote learning, and improve study habits and organizational skills. Homework should offer the student opportunities to:
 - 1. Learn to budget time and energies, especially in terms of long-range assignments;
 - 2. Develop a sense of personal accountability; and
 - 3. Develop an ability to appraise progress in learning.

- C. Homework should strengthen the links between home, school and the community. Homework should be a vehicle for broadening a student's awareness, appreciation and use of the communication media, libraries, museums and other community resources.

Responsibility

The assignment of homework is the responsibility of the teacher. The amount of homework assigned should be gradually increased from grade to grade. As a student advances through school, it is reasonable to expect that the amount of homework can be increased using the following guidelines:

Kindergarten	No homework;
Grades 1-4	A few minutes in grade 1 to a maximum of 60 minutes in grade 4 for all subjects combined;
Grades 5-8	A maximum of two hours per night for all subjects combined; and
Grades 9-12	A maximum of three hours per night for all subjects combined.

ADOPTED: February 3, 1992; REVISED: May 21, 2003

LEGAL REFERENCE: CH. 125.23, B,5,1 (Maine Dept. of Ed. Rule)

SOURCE: Board Policy

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HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

- A. Teachers should communicate their practices concerning assignments and checking of homework to the students and parents early in the school year.
- B. Homework should be assigned on a regular basis and directly related to instructional objectives.
- C. Homework assignments should be clearly defined and teachers should verify student understanding of homework.
- D. Homework should be appropriate for the age and stage of development of the student to whom it is assigned.
- E. Homework should be task-oriented. The amount of time required to complete the assigned tasks will vary among students.
- F. Students should have been taught the skills necessary to complete the homework.
- G. Completion of homework assignments should be verified by the teacher, and homework assignments should be returned to the student in a timely manner.
- H. Mistakes made by the student in homework assignments should be identified for correction.
- I. Teachers should be encouraged to coordinate homework assignments.
- J. Credit should be given for timely completion of homework.
- K. Obtaining and completing an assignment when absent is the responsibility of the student.

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