

## Homework

The Board of Trustees believes that homework can contribute to life-long learning habits.

The Board of Trustees believes that K-8 students should participate in homework that is meaningful, engaging, purposeful and developmentally appropriate.

The Board of Trustees defines homework as any activity or assignment directed by the teachers to be performed outside the classroom; this may include practicing skills learned in class, reading, studying, projects, or completion of assignments.

The Board of Trustees expects that homework assignments shall:

- be connected to a learning objective
- extend students' learning or skills
- foster independence
- include options and choice of assignments, when possible

The Board of Trustees expects that the principal and staff at each school shall develop and regularly review a school-site homework plan.

The Board of Trustees believes that the following guidelines for homework are reasonable:

- K-1: No more than 30 minutes per night, including reading
- 2-3: No more than 45 minutes per night, including reading
- 4-5: No more than 60 minutes per night, including reading
- 6: No more than 90 minutes per night, including reading
- 7-8: No more than 120 minutes per night, including reading

The Board of Trustees recognizes holidays, vacations and weekends as “homework free” time; however, we strongly believe in promoting literacy throughout all grade levels and encourage students to continue to read during “homework free” times. Assignments will be structured so that students are not required or expected to do homework during these times. Long term projects may need to span over a weekend, but must have minimum of five regular school days included in the time to complete such a project.

In grades 6-8, a reasonable amount of homework may be assigned on Fridays or over weekends if needed to prepare for class the following week, due to the rotating schedule.

The Board of Trustees expects the following regarding **Make-up work**:

- The Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians that no student may have his/her grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence when missed assignments and tests are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time. Students will have a minimum of 2 days for every 1 day of absence to make up assignments.
- No student may have his/her grade reduced or lose academic credit for the inability to participate in an activity. Once a note from a parent/guardian or doctor is provided to the school, a teacher must find a reasonable alternative assignment for the student to make up the activity. Such notification shall include the full text of Education Code 48205 Absence for personal reasons (education Code 48980) (cf.5121-Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement) (cf. 5145.6 – Parental Notifications)
- 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, **but are not required to do so.** (Education Code 48913) (cf. 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

## **Legal Reference**

Education Code

- 48205 Absences for personal reasons
- 48913 Completion of work missed by suspended student
- 48980 Parental Notification

## Instruction AR 6154

### Grade Level Guidelines

The grade level guidelines of BP 6154 are based on the needs of the average student. The amount of time a student spends on assigned homework depends on factors such as the student's needs, learning ability, subject, school schedule, choice of electives, and assigned homework due to dates. Time spent on homework should be balanced with the importance of personal and family well-being, and the wide array of family obligations experienced in our society today.

Reading is an integral part of learning. These guidelines include practicing skills learned in class, reading, studying, projects, or completion of assignments and represent the maximum amount of time to be spent on required homework assignments.

- K-1: No more than 30 minutes per night, including reading
- 2-3: No more than 45 minutes per night, including reading
- 4-5: No more than 60 minutes per night, including reading
- 6: No more than 90 minutes per night, including reading
- 7-8: No more than 120 minutes per night, including reading

Holidays, vacations and weekends are to be considered as "homework free" time; however, we strongly believe in promoting literacy throughout all grade levels and encourage students to continue to read during "homework free" times. Assignments will be structured so that students are not required or expected to do homework during these times. Long term projects may need to span over a weekend, but must have minimum of five regular school days included in the time to complete such a project.

In grades 6-8, a reasonable amount of homework may be assigned on Fridays or over weekends if needed to prepare for class the following week, due to the rotating schedule.

Communication is integral to the partnership between home and school. Teachers and parents are expected to communicate with each other through email, SchoolLoop, or by phone call at the earliest possible opportunity once a student has demonstrated consistent inability to complete homework assignments and to discuss possible solutions.

Students who demonstrate quality effort and spend sufficient time attempting to complete homework should be stopped when a parent observes that continuing would be detrimental to the child's well-being.

In such cases, parent/guardians should note the amount of time spent on the assignment and sign the paper. If this happens repeatedly, the parent should contact the teacher directly to devise a plan to help the student be successful.

### Responsibilities

Students have a responsibility to understand assignments and communicate with their teacher(s), including:

- Ensuring that they understand the homework and ask for clarification or help when needed
- Completing assigned homework in a timely manner
- Managing time by staying focused, on task, and planning effectively for long term projects
- Bringing all necessary materials to/from school
- Putting forth their best effort to produce quality work
- Completing or making-up all assignments and tests when absent or suspended from school if required by the teacher

Parents have a responsibility to:

- Be supportive of his/her child, while encouraging the child to advocate for himself/herself
- Communicate directly with the teacher if a student consistently experiences difficulty completing homework assignments in the given time, or if there are questions about assignments
- Encourage reading at all grade levels

- Provide an appropriate environment for homework to be done and establish a family homework routine
- Provide a healthy balance between homework, extra and co-curricular activities, and family commitments
- Check SchoolLoop regularly ( for grades 6-8)
- Be informed of student workload/expectations when students are enrolled in a world language class, band and advanced mathematics class ( for grades 6-8)

Teachers have a responsibility to:

- Assign homework that is developmentally appropriate and differentiated when possible
- Help students understand the purpose and value of homework by assigning homework that connects to classroom instruction
- Use homework for tasks that cannot be completed in class
- Provide students options for assignments when possible
- Provide feedback on homework assignments given
- Provide a minimum of five regular school days for long-term projects that may need to span over a weekend
- Coordinate homework assignments so that students have a balanced amount of homework and that assignments do not exceed the maximum number of minutes per grade level.

Principals have the responsibility to:

- Develop a Site Homework Plan that includes the following:
  - Provide every parent/family in the school a paper copy of the district homework policy
  - The method in which students will be taught homework study skills needed in order to complete homework assignments successfully
  - Guidelines/practices that address late work, grading, homework-free nights, homework passes, communication with parents regarding long-term assignments, etc.
  - Information about the role parents/guardians play in the homework process through printed information and regular communication from teachers
  - How the Homework Policy will be enforced
- Enforce the Homework Policy set forth in BP 6154

The Superintendent (or designee) has the responsibility to:

- Ensure that Principals develop a Site Homework Plan
- Ensure that Principals enforce the Homework Policy set forth in BP 6154

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**Requesting Homework Procedures:** When a student is absent due to illness, it is best to focus on resting and getting well. After three days of excused absences, parents may request homework from the front office if the following methods are not sufficient:

- Check SchoolLoop for homework assignments and due dates. Check resources such as weekly or monthly assignment sheets or websites or call a friend in class to find out what work was assigned
- Call or email our front office staff by 9am on the day you wish to pick up missed homework. Requests made after 9am will not be available on the same day.
  - Phone number: 854-3962, ext# 0
  - Email our front office staff: [gparisi@llesd.org](mailto:gparisi@llesd.org) or [mstosz@llesd.org](mailto:mstosz@llesd.org)

Any work provided by a teacher will be in the homework cubby box in the office after 3:00pm. If someone other than a parent or sibling is going to pick up the homework, please let Ms. Parisi or Mrs. Stosz know when the request for homework is made so they can be helpful.

**Preferred Practice:** Get make-up work from teachers upon return to school. Students are allowed two days to make up homework for each excused absence.