

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Coventry, Rhode Island

HOMEWORK

**Guiding Belief/Purpose**

The School Committee recognizes the importance of assigning meaningful and quality homework to students. Research indicates that schools in which homework is routinely assigned and assessed tend to have higher achieving students. Homework fosters student achievement, independence, and responsibility and serves as a vital link between school and home. Therefore, it is the policy of Coventry Public Schools that meaningful and quality homework is assigned in accordance with this policy.

**Function of Homework**

Homework encourages students to become self-directed independent learners and helps support and promote learning in the following ways:

- **Preparation**: provides opportunities to gather/organize information in preparation for active engagement learning experiences
- **Checking for Understanding**: provides students and teachers the opportunity to formatively assess students' grasp of newly acquired learning
- **Practice**: provides opportunities to apply new knowledge, and/or review, revise, and reinforce newly acquired knowledge and skills
- **Extension of Learning**: provides students with opportunities to expand upon and extend topics taught in class in order to cultivate creative thinking skills, develop a deeper understanding of concepts and ideas, and employ higher level cognitive applications related to their learning.

**Policy**

- A. All homework assigned shall be of a quality level. Quality homework is measured by the following principles:
  - relevant, useful, and driven by the learning goals/objectives of the lesson.
  - elicits teacher response/feedback.
  - has a clear purpose that is understood by students.
  - provides clear expectations for completion.
  - helps evaluate student understanding.
  - may be differentiated based on learning style and ability
  - provides opportunities for student choice, when appropriate

B. Recognizing that learning is a developmental process, this policy reflects a scaffold approach for homework expectations at each level.

1. Elementary

- a) At the elementary level, homework is graded under Learner Qualities on the standards-based report card.
- b) Homework is not included in the student's assessment of academic achievement.
- c) The goal for all stakeholders (i.e. students, parents, teachers, and administrators) is to work together to develop each child's lifelong learning habits and to help every child achieve academic success.

2. Middle School

- a) Homework is generally graded as a learner quality (called a "process" grade at the middle level) and is not included in the student's assessment of academic achievement (see b).
- b) Homework that is considered an Extension of Learning assignment may be considered a process or product grade.
  - if the assignment is an Extension of Learning assignment and is to be considered as a product grade, it cannot count for more than 25 percent of the student's overall trimester strand's product grade.
  - Students must be informed before-hand if an extension of learning assignment is to be graded as a product grade.
- c) A student will be provided with an additional opportunity to submit homework, when reasonable and appropriate.
- d) When homework is assigned, it shall last, on average, no more than 30 minutes per subject area, per night.

3. High School

- a) Teachers will assign quality homework as defined above that will not exceed 20% of a student's academic grade.

### **Responsibility of Stakeholders**

#### **Student Responsibilities for Homework**

- Write down all assignments in homework folder, planner or student agenda.
- Ensure clear understanding of the assignment.
- Take home all necessary materials to complete the assignment.
- Take primary responsibility for completion of homework and utilize before, during, or afterschool to work on homework or to seek help.

- Complete homework by date required by the teacher.
- Obtain assignments when absent by utilizing electronic communication, peers, or meetings with teacher.
- Follow elementary, middle, high school guidelines for amount of time following an absence for completion of the assignment.

### **Teacher Responsibilities for Homework**

- Assign homework that is relevant, meaningful, and reinforces classroom learning and that is appropriate to students' learning needs.
- Allocate appropriate time for students to record homework and to explain the homework assignment clearly and address questions to clarify any misunderstanding.
- Provide a timeline and/or due dates in which homework must be completed.
- Provide timely and constructive feedback utilizing strategies that will monitor the accuracy and understanding of concepts.
- Adhere to and communicate the district homework policy to students and parents.
- Involve parents and contact them if a pattern of late, inaccurate or incomplete homework develops.
- Advise students at the beginning of each semester of the percentage of the student's final grade which homework will represent.

### **Parent Responsibilities for Homework**

- Promote a positive attitude towards homework and assist the student in prioritizing activities and managing time by making school and assignments a top priority.
- Support the student by providing a reasonable time and place to work.
- Encourage the use of school resources/materials.
- Support students to complete homework on time and encourage them to prepare clarifying questions for class.
- Help out when necessary while encouraging independent completion of assignments.
- Support teacher attempts to provide additional time for students to complete their work before, during or after school.

- Initiate communication with teachers when necessary.

### **School Administrative Team Responsibilities**

- Establish and communicate the district homework policy to the school community.
- Support and ensure district homework policy is implemented with fidelity as part of instructional practice.

### **Glossary of Terms**

- Product Grade: relates to students' specific achievements or levels of performance. They describe what a student knows and is able to do at a particular point in time relative to the standards addressed for the trimester/semester.
- Process Grade: relates to how a student got to the level of performance; the effort and work habits students demonstrate.

### **Substitution and Revocation**

The policy is a substitution for the following policies which are hereby expressly revoked and the policy shall be in their place and stead: 8155, 8155.1, 8155.2

First Read: 6/25/2013

Second Read: 7/24/2013

Adopted: 7/24/2013