

**Pasadena Unified
Board Policy Review
Executive Summary**

**Date: June 11, 2015
Submitter: S. Bird, Ed.D.**

Board Policy(ies) under Review (BP number, name, revision date):	Associated Administrative Regulations (ARs) (AR number, name and revision date):	
BP 6154 – Homework/Makeup Work	AR 6154 – Homework/Makeup Work	
What triggered the review of policy(ies)? Internal, external?		
This board policy has not been revised since 2009. Note that CSBA has not revised its documents since 1999. It appears that staff in 2009 intentionally contoured the policy and AR to conform to PUSD. Staff is requested to review and revise in keeping with current district practice.		
Summary of change(s) being made (attach separate sheet if required):		
<p>The policy has been revised to reflect feedback from stakeholders, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language has been removed that was contradictory in terms of homework being “routine.” • Homework may not count more than 10% of a student’s grade. • Homework may not be assigned over Thanksgiving, Winter recess, Spring Break, or religious holy days • Teachers must assign homework that students can be reasonably expected to complete on their own. • Schools must share the homework policy and the purpose for homework with parents annually. 		
Describe staff and/or stakeholder input into review:	How will modified policy(ies) be communicated to concerned parties?	
A group of stakeholders including parents, teachers and administrators held numerous focus groups and studied research to include in the revisions of this policy.	Principals will receive training prior to the beginning of school starting for the 2015-16 school year so that they may collaborate with teachers to develop school site plans.	
Mandated Policy ___Y ___X___N	Annual Review Required ___Y ___X___N	Annual Report to Board Required ___Y ___X___N

Please attach a marked up copy of each policy or AR as well as the original, with each being clearly labeled.

Instruction

HOMEWORK/MAKE-UP WORK

BP 6154

Point of View

The Governing Board recognizes that homework contributes toward building responsibility, self-discipline and life-long learning habits, and is often a part of a student's academic experience. *(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)*

Homework, when effectively administered, occupies an important place in the educational program. Through homework, classroom instruction is reinforced, high expectations are supported, students are motivated toward self-direction, and the relationship between school and home in the learning process is strengthened.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that administrators and teachers develop and implement an effective homework plan at each school site. As needed, teachers may receive training in designing relevant, challenging and meaningful homework assignments that reinforce classroom learning objectives. Teachers' expectations related to homework may be addressed in their evaluations.

(cf. 4115 - Evaluation/ Supervision)
(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

Although it is the student's responsibility to do homework assignments independently, the Board expects teachers at all grade levels to communicate with parents/guardians regarding the purpose of work assigned outside of the classroom. When students repeatedly fail to do their homework, parents/guardians shall be notified and asked to contact the teacher.

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Even though homework is an important part of every student's instructional program, research shows that many other factors including external factors such as family time, nutrition, sleep, and exercise can have more of an impact on achievement. Teachers may require regularly assigned homework based upon classroom instruction and students will be accountable for making every effort to complete homework in a reasonable amount of time.

The District's philosophy is that homework shall support the achievement of the learning objectives and be used as a tool towards mastery. Therefore...

Instruction

HOMEWORK/MAKE-UP WORK

BP 6154

- a) Homework shall be reasonable, relevant, and something students can do on their own;
- b) Homework assignments shall be as carefully planned as classroom activities;
- c) Homework shall be assigned when needed to meet one or more of the following educational objectives:
 - a. provide an opportunity to practice and/or reinforce skills and knowledge learned in the classroom
 - b. extend and reflect on what was learned in the classroom
 - c. prepare students for future classroom activities
 - d. transfer knowledge and apply skills in content or subject matter previously learned in the classroom;
- d) Homework shall never be assigned as punishment;
- e) Teachers need flexibility to ensure that homework is differentiated and based on student needs in order to provide appropriate enrichment opportunities for all;
- f) Teachers shall take into consideration students' age, instructional and life experiences, student needs, instructional levels, and family resources
- g) Homework shall count no more than 10% of a student's grade at the secondary level.
- h) Homework shall not be assigned to students over Thanksgiving, Winter recess, Spring recess, or religious holy days.
- i) Each campus shall communicate with parents the purpose and policy regarding homework annually.

Background:

According to research, homework should not be routinely assigned, but instead only be given when there is a clear purpose with regard to student learning. For homework to be effective, it should be carefully planned to support specific educational goals, align to instructional objectives, and take into account the specific abilities and needs of students. It should never be used as punishment nor should it be used for new learning or to teach a new skill. However, there is no conclusive evidence that it increases academic achievement in elementary students and appears to only have a moderate impact for middle school students. Further, although research varies about what is considered excessive, most researchers agree that more than 2-3 hours of homework in high school diminishes its effectiveness.

Studies also show that the achievement gap widens if homework success depends on support or assistance from adults in order to complete it. This

Instruction

HOMEWORK/MAKE-UP WORK

BP 6154

reinforces the idea that quality homework must have a clear purpose and be used to enhance classroom learning, is personally relevant, and can be done without help from an adult. Additionally, home environments can have an impact on a student's ability to complete homework, and harsh late policies contribute to failing grades and discourage students from completing their work.

Research shows that the focus of homework should be to check for understanding and to receive feedback so students can achieve the learning objectives. Feedback must be provided in a timely manner in order to be effective. In several research studies, students who received qualitative feedback and comments from teachers increased their academic achievement significantly more than students who did not receive any feedback or only received a letter grade.

Make-up Work

Students shall be given the opportunity to make up school work missed because of an excused absence or suspension and shall receive full credit if the work is turned in according to a reasonable make-up schedule.

As determined by the teacher, the assignments and tests shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the assignments and tests missed during the absence. Students shall receive full credit for work satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time. (Education Code 48205)

(cf. 5113 -Absences and Excuses)

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. 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) Staff will allow access to daily homework to suspended students.

(cf. 6182 -Opportunity School/ Class/ Program)

Instruction

HOMEWORK/MAKE-UP WORK

BP 6154

Students who miss school work because of unexcused absences may be given the opportunity to make up missed work for full or reduced credit. Teachers shall assign such makeup work as necessary to ensure academic progress, not as a punitive measure.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48205 Absences for personal reasons

48913 Completion of work missed by suspended student

48980 Parental notifications

58700-58702 Tutoring and homework assistance program; summer school apportionment credit

Management Resources:

SBE POLICIES

Parent Involvement in the Education of Their Children, 1994

Policy Statement on Homework, 1995

Policy

Adopted: January 23, 1996

Revised: June 23, 2009

Revised: _____

PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pasadena, California