

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

DECISION ON

PROPOSED, REVISED BOARD POLICY

**POLICY NO. 02-0056-000
HOMEWORK**

AUGUST 22, 2022

Background Information:

The Board maintains a manual which sets forth the various policies of the Harford County Public Schools. The manual contains policies which are either required by federal and state law and regulation or which are, in the Board's judgment, necessary and appropriate for the school system to operate in a lawful, appropriate and effective manner.

Discussion:

In the Fall of 2021, Dr. Susan Brown, Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment, assembled a team to review the HCPS Homework policy. That team shared a draft policy with the General Curriculum Committee ("GCC") and GCC approved the proposed, revised Homework policy which was presented to the Board at its June 20, 2022, business meeting.

The policy was posted for a 30-day public comment period and 1 comment was received and forwarded to the Board for review.

Attachments:

1. Current Board policy entitled 04-0025-000 Homework.
2. Proposed, revised policy entitled 02-0056-000 Homework. The revised policy number reflects a move of the policy from the Instruction Section of the Board's Policy Manual to the Student Section of the Board's Policy Manual.
3. Proposed Draft Procedure entitled Homework.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

For the foregoing reasons, the Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the proposed revisions to policy 02-0056-000 Homework.

POLICY TITLE: Homework		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE:	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: 6/9/1997	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED: 4/22/2002
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: Instruction		

Appropriate homework is the expectation for students at all levels of schooling. Properly planned homework assignments relate directly to classroom work and extend beyond the classroom. Homework provides the student valuable experience in following directions, making judgments, raising additional questions for study, and developing responsibility and self-discipline.

Board Approval Acknowledged By:

Patricia L. Skebeck, Secretary and Treasurer
Board of Education of Harford County

Policy Action Dates					
ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE
Reaffirmed	3/10/1980				
Amended	6/11/1990				
Amended	6/9/1997				
Reaffirmed	4/22/2002				

Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References			
LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME: Unknown		JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER: Unknown	
PERSON RESPONSIBLE:		JOB POSITION OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE:	
DESIGNEE NAME: N/A		JOB POSITION OF DESIGNEE: N/A	
REFERENCE 1 TYPE:	REFERENCE 1 NO.	REFERENCE 1 DESCRIPTION:	
REFERENCE 2 TYPE:	REFERENCE 2 NO.	REFERENCE 2 DESCRIPTION:	
REFERENCE 3 TYPE:	REFERENCE 3 NO.	REFERENCE 3 DESCRIPTION:	
REFERENCE 4 TYPE:	REFERENCE 4 NO.	REFERENCE 4 DESCRIPTION:	
REFERENCE 5 TYPE:	REFERENCE 5 NO.	REFERENCE 5 DESCRIPTION:	
POLICY NUMBER PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1, 2005: School Administration - .02.08.075			

POLICY TITLE: HOMEWORK		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE:	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: June 9, 1997	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED: April 22, 2002
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: Students		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that homework is assigned in a manner which reinforces, extends and/or completes instruction taught within the classroom; offers meaningful and accessible learning opportunities which consider the developmental needs of students and address learning standards; is used to inform instructional decisions; and supports student learning.

II. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- A. Homework-a planned activity to be completed independently by the student outside of the classroom with minimal adult support.

III. Statement of Policy

A. Student Learning Support

1. Homework should serve the following purposes to support student learning:
 - a. Develop and reinforce independent study skills;
 - b. Prepare for future learning, extend and/or enrich classroom learning;
 - c. Reinforce and practice basic skills;
 - d. Develop initiative, responsibility, and self-direction;
 - e. Evaluate student progress; and
 - f. Build a home/school connection when appropriate.
2. Homework assignments should be made with consideration of the overall cognitive load of homework assigned to students across classes. This consideration should include reference to age-appropriate guidelines for homework assignments, which are included in the *Homework Procedure*.

B. Stakeholders

1. Stakeholders play an important role in ensuring homework is valued and completed. The following is a list of stakeholders and their potential role with homework:
 - a. Central Office: Establishes, reviews, and recommends edits to the overarching *Homework Policy*.

- b. School-Based Administrator: Ensures the uniform communication of the expectation and implementation of the Homework Policy among all teachers and staff members.
- c. Teacher: Provides meaningful, accessible assignments which directly relate to the instructional objectives of the course and meets the developmental needs of their students; assesses homework assignments and provides timely, meaningful feedback to students; and adheres to the HCPS homework procedures for completion and/or accuracy.
- d. Caregivers: Support completion of homework to the best degree possible while not stepping into formal teaching roles.
- e. Students: Complete homework assignments within the allocated time and seek support from teachers and administrators as needed.

Board Approval Acknowledged By:

Sean W. Bulson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Policy Action Dates					
ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE
Reaffirmed	03-10-1980				
Amended	06-11-1990				
Amended	06-09-1997				
Reaffirmed	04-22-2002				

Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References	
LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME: Dr. Susan Brown	JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER: Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment
PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Dr. Peter Carpenter	JOB POSITION OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Director of Organizational Development and Continuous Learning
DESIGNEE NAME:	JOB POSITION OF DESIGNEE:
POLICY NUMBER PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1, 2005: School Administration-.02.08.075	

Homework Procedures

I. Procedures

- A. To the greatest degree possible, teachers should be aware of and address the overall cognitive load of homework assigned to students across classes. The following time allocations are recommendations for students at each level. These guidelines are for regular, ongoing homework assignments and do not include long-term projects.

Parents and student should communicate with the student's teacher if there are ongoing concerns about the overall time needed to complete homework, or if there are concerns about specific classes. Administration may be included as necessary.

Guidelines for Homework Assignments

Grade Level	Reading for Pleasure	Other Content Areas
K-2	10 minutes minimum	10 minutes
3-5	15 minutes minimum	15 minutes
6-8	20 minutes minimum	15 minutes per subject
9-12	20 minutes minimum	25 minutes per subject
College-Level Coursework (AP, IB courses)*	Assigned as needed	30 or more minutes as needed

*Dually enrolled students will abide by the homework procedures outlined by the institution the student attends.

- B. No aspect of homework shall require or involve fundraising, donations, or the student or student's caregivers paying any sum of money to the school to obtain credit, such as tissues, school supplies, advertisements for yearbook and journalism, and other such assignments.
- C. Teachers will offer students a minimum of 24 hours to complete homework assignments. Additionally, homework assignments should not be assigned to students over prolonged holiday breaks or religious celebrations.
- D. Students have a minimum of the total sum number of days of an absence to make-up any missed assignments when absent.
- E. Homework shall be graded according to the terms and procedures outlined in the *Harford County Public Schools Grading and Reporting Policy* and may impact a student's quarterly grade, but not in a manner to preclude advancement to other grades or the earning of a credit if otherwise qualified.

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