

Downey Unified School District

INSTRUCTION

HOMEWORK

AR 3133

It shall be the policy of the District to assign homework beyond the regular school day.

Elementary and Middle Schools

Homework is a necessary and important part of the educational program. In assigning homework the teacher should take into consideration several factors among which are

- The purposes to be accomplished.
- The abilities and needs of the pupil.
- The requirements to be met.

1. Purposes of Homework

- a. To reinforce learning which has taken place in the classroom.
- b. To make up assignments missed in class.
- c. To develop self-discipline, independent planning, self-direction, and organization.
- d. To encourage the discovery of new ideas and enrich the experiences of pupils.

2. Abilities and Needs

- a. Pupils should be given assignments commensurate with their individual ability level according to their needs.
- b. Homework is typified by, but not limited to, the following activities:
 - (1) Reading to self or other members of the family.
 - (2) Seeking information by asking questions about a topic or going to the library.
 - (3) Searching for materials or specimens as for science or other subjects.
 - (4) Reviewing spelling words.

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HOMEWORK - continued

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Elementary and Middle Schools - continued

2. Abilities and Needs - continued

- (5) Practicing skills.
- (6) Completing assignments started but not finished in class.
- (7) Extending the development of research and study skills through the use of projects and notebooks.

3. Requirements

Teachers should consider the following factors in the assignment of homework:

- a. Homework should be assigned with adequate teacher explanation in the classroom.
- b. No child should have homework every day.
- c. New assignments should not be given for weekend or holiday preparation.
- d. Some homework may be given which requires a pupil to budget time. Such assignments should allow for several hours of preparation.
- e. As stated in AR 2220.1 and AR 2220.2, homework is an integral part of every student's achievement effort. It is the obligation of every teacher to assess and record all homework and to return all outside assignments to the student.
- f. Homework assignments shall not be punitive in nature.
- g. Homework assignments should be coordinated among teachers to avoid overloading students.
- h. Homework assignments should not exceed an average total of 30-45 minutes, four nights a week, for students in grades 4-5.
- i. Homework assignments should not exceed an average total of 45-60 minutes, four nights a week, for students in grades 6-8.

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High Schools

Homework is an important planned part of the secondary school educational program. The amount of assigned homework increases gradually as students progress from grades nine to twelve.

1. Purposes of Homework

- a. Homework helps each student learn to work independently and develop responsibility and skills.
- b. Homework assignments require self-discipline, help develop self-assurance, and thus prepare students for future responsibilities.
- c. Homework helps to meet the educational needs which cannot be covered in the regular school day.

2. Abilities and Needs

- a. The more capable student should be given assignments which provide challenge to his/her capabilities. This can best be achieved by increasing the level of qualitative difficulty, not the quantity of work expected.
- b. The college preparatory students' needs are different from those of non-college preparatory students.
- c. Homework is necessary and an integral part of the instructional program. In assigning homework the teacher should take into consideration several factors among which are
 - (1) Completion of assignments begun in class.
 - (2) Lessons related to class learning, such as preparation of a speech, an outside reading assignment, drill exercises, etc.
 - (3) Individual projects and/or research.

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HOMEWORK - continued

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High Schools - continued

3. Requirements

Teachers should consider the following factors in assignment of homework:

- a. Abilities and needs of individual students.
- b. Purposes to be accomplished.
- c. Homework assignments should be coordinated among teachers to avoid overloading students.
- d. Assignments should not be given for weekend or holiday preparation.
- e. Homework shall not be punitive in nature.
- f. As stated in AR 2220.3, homework is an integral part of every student's achievement effort. It is the obligation of every teacher to assess and record all homework and to return all outside assignments to the student.

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