

Westford Public Schools strive to create lifelong learners and foster an environment of meaningful learning, effective collaboration, and critical thinking that will allow our students to develop the skills needed to become productive and engaged citizens. The School Committee recognizes that academic work may extend into after school hours to support learning objectives. Homework may be a useful adjunct to in-school learning and should serve at least one of the following purposes:

- Preview/Preparation for an upcoming class
- Practice/Refinement/Reinforcement of skills and concepts learned in class
- Integration of newly learned concepts and skills with what students already know

Assigning homework is optional and at the teacher's discretion. Homework should not be assigned simply for routine purposes. Nor should it be assigned for disciplinary purposes. Homework assignments:

- Should be meaningful for students by having real world connections when applicable.
- Should contain problem-solving activities and assignments that challenge students to think critically.
- May include project-oriented, long-term assignments to enable students to integrate their learning.
- Should be differentiated in accordance with needs, skill deficits, and strengths of students when necessary.
- Should incorporate student choice when appropriate.
- Should provide challenge and extensions to further expand opportunities for learning.

As homework is an important part of the collaborative student/teacher relationship, parents and students of appropriate age should be active participants in the process when necessary. In accordance with the regulations referenced below, available channels of communication should be utilized, and students should be encouraged to advocate for their educational needs when appropriate. If a student is struggling with the material, or has significantly surpassed the amount of time an assignment is expected to take, they are encouraged to seek out the appropriate person to voice their concerns. If and when concerns arise, the classroom teacher should be the first person contacted, followed if necessary by the curriculum coordinator, then the administration.

The Superintendent and/or the designee will create guidelines in accordance with this policy that provide more specific guidance to teachers at all grade levels (K-12). These regulations may include specific recommendations on homework over weekends, vacations, and holidays. Regulations should also adhere to district policy regarding religious observances.

Westford Public Schools Policy References:

P5114 – School Year/School Calendar
P5203 – Religious Expression

Policy Adopted: April 9, 2001
Policy Reviewed: May 21, 2018
Policy Revised: May 21, 2018

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Westford, Massachusetts

HOMEWORK

P6112

P6101 – Educational Philosophy

Westford Public Schools Regulation References:

R6112 – Homework

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Westford, Massachusetts