

**INSTRUCTION****Homework**

Regional School District #10 defines “homework” as independent practice and learning that happens outside of the classroom. Homework aids in the creation of lifelong learners that employ skills for independence. These learning opportunities can help to serve as a connection between home and school. Independent practice reinforces skills that students should be able to practice with little support. Learning outside of the classroom may include work on long-term projects and tutorials or readings to prepare for new learning.

To be educationally meaningful, independent practice and learning assignments should:

1. Reinforce skills introduced in the classroom by providing additional practice.
2. Be at an appropriate level of challenge and allow for personalization.
3. Promote engagement in classroom activities and student success.
4. Provide opportunities for students to reflect on their learning and current performance.

**GUIDELINES FOR HOMEWORK**

A. Guidelines for teachers are:

1. Design practice opportunities tied to academic standards and assign only when necessary to reinforce skills.
2. When giving assignments, be sure to explain the purpose, give clear directions, provide timely and consistent feedback to students, and suggest a recommended time allotment.
3. Plan and support long-term assignments in and out of the classroom, in segments that allow students to receive feedback.
4. Long-term assignments and assessments should be scheduled in collaboration with grade level partners when possible.
5. Create opportunities for students to reflect on their learning and performance.
6. Encourage students to advocate for additional help and support as needed to reach mastery.
7. Homework will count for a maximum of 10% of a student’s academic grade.

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B. Guidelines for administrators are:

1. Effectively communicate the philosophy and guidelines for homework with all staff and ensure staff communicates homework expectations and philosophy to students and parents.
2. Support staff with the implementation of the RSD10 Homework Policy and regulations for use.
3. Periodically monitor homework assignments for alignment to academic standards and clear purpose for learning.
4. Provide opportunities for teachers to communicate and coordinate major assignments and long-term projects with grade level peers and departments.
5. Monitor syllabus and website communication to ensure sharing of information related to homework assignments, grading practices, and expectations.

C. Guidelines for students are:

1. Follow the directions and complete each assignment to the best of his/her ability.
2. Reflect on learning and current performance.
3. Advocate for additional help and support as needed to reach mastery.
4. Budget time realistically and meet due dates.
5. Actively seek missed work/assignments by asking teachers before or upon return from an absence.

D. Guidelines for parents are:

1. Support students in identifying a time and place to carry out his/her assignments.
2. Encourage students to share reflections on their learning and performance.
3. Encourage independence and help students self-advocate for support as needed.
4. Encourage students to take pride in their work.
5. Contact the teacher in the event of questions or concerns.

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