

ABRSD Homework Policy

The intent of homework, when assigned, is to support student engagement in the classroom. The term "homework" refers to an assignment or activity that supplements and supports instruction. Homework should increase in complexity with the maturity of the student. This can be established through activities and assignments that encourage students to investigate for themselves and to work independently as well as with others. Educators will strive to emphasize quality over quantity of homework.

This policy supports balance for our students while still engaging them in deep learning experiences. The District recognizes the need for students and families to have playtime, downtime and family time (PDF) to promote wellness. Social-emotional wellness and balance in the lives of our students leads to better learning. Better balance also allows students to engage in activities of their choice, including independent reading.

Research supports independent choice reading as a powerful tool for learning and well-being. When students read for pleasure and hear conversations relating to text, they engage in deep learning. Such powerful activities foster profound academic growth and well-being, according to research. Independent choice reading happens best when schools and families partner together. Encouraging students to be self-motivated readers does not solely rest on the District, but also on families. The District strives to help students become independent readers alongside families. Families play an important role by creating environments that nurture the desire and motivation to read for pleasure. Because research shows that intrinsic motivation is most effective in fostering a lifelong love of reading, the District will not assign independent choice reading.

To ensure all students have equitable access to programs and curricula, the information for any homework assignment should be clear and specific so that the student can complete the assignment independently. Homework assignments should take into consideration individual student differences, needs and available resources. Teachers will follow Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and 504 Plans when planning for homework. Homework should not require the use of materials not readily available in all homes.

Frequency of Homework Grades K-2: Students will have no homework except for an occasional activity that may include other people.

Grades 3-4: Students will occasionally have an assigned activity.

Grades 5-6: Students may expect homework more frequently, Monday through Thursday.

Grades 7-12: Students should expect homework in one or more subjects nightly.

Vacations K-12

Homework will not be assigned with the expectation that it be worked on and/or completed during any school vacations. Long-term projects assigned before a vacation cannot have a due date earlier than the Thursday after a vacation.

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Long Weekends K-12

Homework will not be assigned over long weekends, including those due to religious holidays and those marked by a district-wide closing. When there is no school on Monday, in-class assessments will not be scheduled earlier than the following Wednesday.

Mid-years - High School only

Mid-years - No assessments given or homework during mid-year week, except for homework directly related to exam preparation.

MCAS

Grades 3-8: Nights prior to MCAS testing are homework-free.

High School: Limit homework to twenty minutes per night per course

Religious Holidays

For practices related to religious holidays, please refer to District policy IMD located on the district website: <http://www.abschools.org/school-committee/policies/section-i>

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