

## IV. Instruction

### A. Curricular Policies

#### 5. Homework

##### **General Statement of Purpose**

The Narragansett School Committee believes that the purpose of homework should be to practice, reinforce, and/or apply acquired skills and knowledge. Homework is defined as the time students spend outside the classroom in assigned learning activities. Homework serves to develop regular study skills and the ability to complete assignments independently. The Committee believes that homework is the responsibility of the student and as students mature they are increasingly able to work independently. Parents play a supportive role through monitoring completion of assignments, encouraging students' efforts, and providing a conducive environment for learning. As research supports, moderate assignments completed and done well are more effective than lengthy or difficult ones done poorly.

##### **Homework Guidelines**

The School Committee believes homework should be designed to:

- Place a strong emphasis on reading
- Apply writing skills
- Practice previously taught mathematics skills
- Consider individual students needs, learning styles, and abilities in order for students to complete their homework
- Relate to grade level standards and learning objectives as a direct extension to classroom instruction
- Include clear instructions and performance expectations so students can complete independently
- Be assigned regularly and be assigned in reasonable amounts
- Provide timely feedback to the student
- Be a measure of student's understanding of competencies to be mastered
- Set high expectations for the quality of work

##### **Purpose and Objectives of Homework**

The School Committee encourages the administration and teaching staff at each school to collaborate around issues of homework to create best practices and consistency among grade levels and classes. *Coordination between teachers to ensure that the total homework assignment time is reasonable according to educational level and purpose is strongly encouraged.* The School Committee recommends that weekend homework at the middle and high school levels not exceed a regular day's assignment and homework not be assigned during school holidays.

##### Homework for Elementary Grades

1. In Grades K – 2, homework should consist primarily of reading and a limited number of independent exercises to reinforce previously taught basic skills.

## Homework (continued)

2. In Grades 3-4, homework should consist primarily of reading, practice in mathematics, application of writing skills, and beginning research. Homework should be designed to build independent study habits.
3. Long-term assignments in Grade 4 should be limited in number and duration. These assignments should include clear checkpoints to monitor progress towards completion.
4. Homework at the elementary grades should not be assigned over the weekends; however, students should be encouraged to read over the weekends.

### Homework for Middle School Grades

1. Homework should primarily consist of reading, practice in mathematics, application of writing skills, and beginning research. At this level, homework should continue to build independent study habits.
2. Long-term assignments at the middle grades should be limited in number and duration. These assignments should include clear checkpoints to monitor progress towards completion.
3. As a guideline, homework should be assigned on a regular basis. Total homework assignments should generally not exceed one hour nightly for Grades 5 – 6 and one and one-half hours nightly for Grades 7-8.
4. Weekend homework at the middle school should generally not exceed a regular day's assignment with the exception of independent reading and long-term assignments.

### Homework for High School Grades

1. Homework assignments should emphasize reading and writing across all subject areas, practice of key skills, independent research, and problem-solving activities.
2. Long-term assignments should include clear checkpoints to monitor progress towards completion.
3. As a guideline, homework should be assigned on a regular basis. Total homework assignments should generally not exceed two hours nightly. Advanced Placement courses are college level classes and may require more extensive homework.
4. Weekend homework at the high school should generally not exceed a regular day's assignment with the exception of independent reading and long-term assignments.
5. During their time in high school, it is expected that students will become progressively independent and self-directed in preparation for postsecondary work and/or study.

### Guidelines for Teachers

1. Clearly explain objectives, timelines, and required materials associated with the assignment. Teachers should encourage students to monitor their own assignments.
2. Test their assumptions about time requirements and feasibility of assignments using personal experience and student feedback.

Homework (continued)

3. Teachers should make efforts to be aware of other teachers' homework, assignments, and testing schedules.
4. Clearly communicate to parents/guardians and students their expectations regarding the amount and quality of homework required by the student and the level of parental involvement to complete assignments.
5. Inform students and parents/guardians of opportunities for homework assistance.
6. Students will be allowed to make-up work missed due to an excused absence, observance of major religious holidays, or suspension in accordance with a reasonable make-up schedule without penalty.

1st Reading:           October 10, 1979  
Adopted:               November 14, 1979  
Revised:               September 19, 1990

Amended --

1st Reading:   May 18, 1994  
2nd Reading:   June 29, 1994

Amended –

1<sup>st</sup> Reading:   March 15, 2006  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:   April 12, 2006

Narragansett School System  
Narragansett, Rhode Island