

HOMework

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizes regular, purposeful homework as an essential component of the instructional process in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Homework is an integral factor in fostering the academic achievement of students and in extending school activities into the home and the community. Regular homework provides opportunities for developmental practice, drill, the application of skills already learned, the development of independent study skills, enrichment activities, and self discipline. Homework should provide reinforcement and extension of class instruction, and should serve as a basis for further study and preparation for future class assignments. In light of the major purposes for homework, it is not to be assigned as punishment for students for disciplinary reasons.

Responsibility for homework should gradually increase for students in grades one through five. Secondary school homework assignments should recognize that more time and individual student initiative are expected in order to meet increased instructional demands. Homework assignments to exceptional students should reflect the special needs of such students.

In general, homework assignments will be completed for the following day; however, long-range assignments and/or special projects should provide students with an opportunity to develop and refine research and independent study skills and the ability to work independently. Teachers should review evidence of progress periodically before the student submits a long-range assignment.

Teachers shall consider the following factors when making homework assignments:

1. The grade level of the student
2. Level and degree of difficulty of the subject being studied
3. The maturity level of the student
4. The instructional needs of the student
5. The purpose of the assignment and its relation to the objectives of the course under study
6. The length of the assignment and the amount of time that will be required to complete it
7. Homework demands being made in other subject areas

It is the responsibility of the school staff to assure quality and value in homework through making assignments which are:

1. An outgrowth of classroom instruction
2. Clear and definite in purpose
3. Clearly related to the objectives and competencies being pursued in the classroom

Principals will be responsible for:

1. Communicating the School Board Rule on homework to staff members, students, and parents/guardians
2. Reviewing the School Board Homework Rule with the total school staff
3. Encouraging parents/guardians to communicate with the school if a student's homework assignments are excessive or not sufficiently challenging to the student, according to the parents'/guardians' views
4. Monitoring the implementation of the homework rule
5. Emphasizing reading as an integral part of the school's homework policy

Teachers will be responsible for:

1. Teaching independent study skills
2. Making specific assignments
3. Checking, reviewing, evaluating, and/or grading student homework, according to the teacher's individual methods, in keeping with a system that is clearly explained to the class
4. Giving feedback on homework assignments in a timely manner
5. Making instructions related to homework clear and providing, when necessary, a short period of supervised study or a period of questioning to insure that the students understand the assignment
6. Assigning students homework that includes at least 30 minutes each day devoted to reading

Students will be responsible for:

1. Completing assigned homework as directed
2. Returning homework to the teacher by the designated time
3. Submitting homework assignments which reflect careful attention to detail and quality of work
4. Devoting at least 30 minutes to reading as part of the homework assignment

Parents'/Guardians' responsibilities include:

1. Providing continued interest and concern for the child's successful performance in school through encouraging and supporting the child in his/her performance of homework assigned
2. Indicating an interest about assignments and assisting, if possible, when requested by the child, but not to include performing the work for the child
3. Supporting the school in regard to the students' being assigned homework
4. Requesting assignments for students when short term absences are involved
5. Assisting the school in stressing the importance of reading and its benefits
6. Assuring that students read for a period of at least 30 minutes each day in addition to any other assigned homework

It is understood that it is not the parent's/guardian's responsibility to have to give a great deal of assistance to the student in completing homework. Parents or other family members should, however, make every effort to read to students who cannot read on their own during the assigned homework period. It is the school's responsibility to make instructions related to homework clear and to provide, when necessary, a short period of supervised study or a period of questioning to ensure that the students understand the assignment.

Frequency and Quantity of Homework Assignments

Each school, when implementing this homework policy, should consider these guidelines as daily averages:

Frequency of Total Daily Average

Grade Level	Assignments	(All Subjects)					
K-1	Daily	(5	days	a	week)	30	minutes
2-3	Daily	(5	days	a	week)	45	minutes
4-5	Daily	(5	days	a	week)	60	minutes
6-7-8	Daily	(5	days	a	week)	75	minutes
9-12	Daily	(5 days a week)				120	minutes

Note: These times do not reflect the additional 30 minutes that are to be devoted to reading.

Reading is recognized as a universal skill that relates to all subjects. Therefore, when specific homework assignments are not given, or when the homework assignment is completed in an expeditious manner, every student will read, minimally, for the amount of time specified in this Board Rule.

Kindergarten teachers shall exercise judgment in making homework assignments, considering the child's readiness level and the type of work to be accomplished. It is recommended that parents/guardians read aloud to their children.

At the secondary level, students in academic classes should receive a minimum of two homework assignments each week in each class. These assignments should be reflected in the student's class grade.

II. PROMOTION AND PLACEMENT IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A. Promotion, Placement, and Retention

1. Required Program of Study

The required program of study for elementary school grades in M-DCPS reflects state and district requirements, including the SSS, for elementary education as contained in the M-DCPS CBC. The following areas of study are required for each grade, K-5:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED PROGRAMS		ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS
Language Arts (ESOL as appropriate) Reading Mathematics Science Social Science	Art Health Music Physical Education Safety Education	World Languages Spanish-S

- Two to three hours of required consecutive uninterrupted daily instruction in language arts/reading depending upon student classification: Tier 1 (never retained with identified deficiency), Tier 2 (retained once), or Tier 3 (retained two times in the same grade). Reading strategies in the content areas are to be provided at all grade levels. These strategies must be in addition to those taught during language arts/reading. A staggered schedule of the mandated two hours of language arts/reading should be part of the master schedule to ensure that all students receive the required instruction in other subject areas. ESOL required time is the same as for language arts/reading. For strategies to assist Tier 1, 2, and 3 students in grades K-3 with reading deficiencies see Appendix D.
- In grades K-5 one hour of consecutive, uninterrupted daily instruction in mathematics (Required).
- In grades K-2, 100 minutes per week of science instruction (Required). In grades 3-5, 150 minutes per week of science instruction (Required). This instruction is to include scientific investigations using the inquiry approach.
- In grades K-2, 100 minutes per week of social science instruction (Strongly Recommended). In grades 3-5, 150