

EDUCATION: PROGRAMS

Policy 513.3-R (previously 603.3-R)

Homework

Homework is a bridge between home and school. Like all aspects of a student's education, it is most effective when there is an active partnership between student, teacher, and parent. For a young student, adult support is critical. As the student matures, he or she becomes more independent and assumes greater personal responsibility. Although the parents' role diminishes in later grades, it does not disappear entirely. Even graduating students benefit from the supportive interest and encouragement of parents.

- 1) In order to encourage and support a homework partnership, each school will develop a brief statement of purposes and practices based on the district homework guidelines associated with this regulation.

The school homework statement will be developed with the involvement of staff and parents. Secondary schools will also involve students. The statement will provide additional detail on school-wide procedures, particularly with respect to communication mechanisms with the home and the means for addressing homework concerns on the part of students, parents, or teachers.

The purpose of the district homework guidelines and the school homework statement is to provide a level of clarity and consistency about purposes and practices which will improve student learning. In order to be effective, the statement must serve the needs of both home and school, and must lead to common understandings. Simply composing and publishing the statement is not sufficient to this purpose.

- 2) The school homework statement will also describe school strategies for ongoing dialogue about homework. In particular, it will describe an annual process for review and refinement of the statement, and subsequent distribution to all concerned through course previews or otherwise.

The school homework statement can describe intentions, but it cannot completely prescribe behaviours. Teachers have a level of professional autonomy, within the limits of the district guideline statement, and parents have the right to determine the level and nature of their involvement. The actual impact of the district homework guidelines and the school homework statement depends upon goodwill and common purpose between home and school, and on commitment to building the mutual understanding and regard which will sustain partnership.