



# East Islip School District

## Homework Guidelines

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*For the purpose of this document and with regard to district educational practice, the term homework is defined as tasks assigned to students by school teachers that are intended to be carried out during non-school hours.*

Well-designed homework engages students in valuable activities independently and collaboratively to practice, reinforce, extend or apply knowledge and skills beyond the classroom. Homework serves an important purpose in the education of students. Research, over the past 40 years, has found that students benefit from doing school work outside of school. Curriculum proficiencies and instructional practices employed by the teacher determine the nature of homework. The East Islip School District's Excellence in Learning (EIL) committee has developed homework guidelines which reflect the New York State Curriculum Guidelines and provide consistency in expectations amongst our district's grade levels and schools.

### **Purpose of Homework:**

- Provide practice and review of skills
- Create interest in new material which will be presented in future lessons
- Provide parents with the opportunity to review students' assignments and participate in supplemental instruction
- Provide assessment of prior learning
- Accountability for learning

### **Student's Responsibility:**

- Students should make sure they understand what to do before leaving
- It is the students' responsibility to know their homework assignments and turn assignments in on time
- The student should maintain high quality homework assignments
- Students must make every effort to take required books and materials home as needed.
- For safety and security reasons, students may not return to the classroom after dismissal for forgotten items
- Students must make every attempt to complete homework assignments

### **Parent's Responsibility:**

- See to it that the child knows what is expected and completes daily and long-term assignments
- Encourage and motivate your child but refrain from doing assignments or providing direct answers
- Contact the teacher if the child is consistently experiencing difficulty with assignments
- Be aware of individual teachers' classroom grading expectations

### **Teacher's Responsibility:**

- Articulate clear consistent expectations to students and parents
- Develop systems for reviewing and checking student assignments when they are due
- Provide informal feedback on homework assignments
- Review homework assignments and keep accurate records of student data
- Ensure that all students have access to all resources needed to complete the assignment and that written directions are given

## **K-Grade 2:**

Homework at the primary grade level is given on a regular basis and reflects the needs of students. It can be informal in nature, with an emphasis upon reading, development of language expression, and fundamental mathematical concepts. It is intended to:

- Give students the sense they are making progress
- Require minimal intervention and should be a review/reinforcement from class
- Provide the ability to practice and use skills at home

In addition to time for assigned homework, the district encourages students to devote time to recreational independent reading.

## **Grades 3-5:**

Homework in the intermediate grades is assigned on a regular basis. It is more formal in nature and may include:

- Reading fictional and non-fictional materials for instructional purposes
- Problem solving activities in all subject areas
- Enhanced learning
- Working on projects or long-term assignments

In addition to time for assigned homework, the district encourages students to devote time to recreational independent reading.

## **Middle School and High School:**

- Homework assignments are a valuable component of the middle and high school curriculum.
- Homework assignments are designed to extend and reinforce the learning experience of students.
- Completing homework facilitates the development of organizational skills, self-discipline, time management skills, and study skills.
- Homework is assigned on a regular basis and a percentage of homework is formulated into the average grade of each student.

## **Assignments Missed Due to a Legal Absence:**

- Missed assignments due to legal absence will be available for students with a request made twenty-four (24) hours prior to pick up.
- Tests missed will be made up at the discretion of the teacher.
- Family vacations during the school calendar are not condoned.
- Homework assignments can not be provided prior to an extended absence.