

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**REGULATION No. 212  
PROGRAM**

**ASSIGNMENT OF HOMEWORK**

Preparing students for college and career readiness is an essential goal in the district's strategic plan. Part of that preparation is providing a rigorous instructional program for students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade which may require work to be completed outside of the regularly scheduled instructional day. Homework is a valuable tool to help students maximize the school experience. It reinforces classroom learning, builds responsibility, and develops essential study habits. Homework must be planned to strike a balance between academics, family life, and the student's needs.

**I. Responsibility:**

The education of our students is a shared responsibility. All parties must do their part to support students as they travel the path to graduation and college/career readiness.

**A. Teachers:**

1. In general, homework should not be assigned over weekends or during holidays. Teachers will communicate due dates to parents and students regarding homework assignments, tests, and projects to allow ample time for preparation and planning.
2. Homework should never be given unless the teacher is absolutely certain that it will be reviewed and checked, and feedback provided to the student within a reasonable timeframe.
3. Assigned homework must have a stated purpose and link to grade level standards and district designated curriculum. The students must understand what they are to do, why they are doing it, and how they will be assessed/graded on the work completed. Teachers should provide specific written explanation, rubric or model, of long term homework assignments so that the requirements, expectations, and timelines are clearly understood by students. Students should have the opportunity to ask questions to clarify homework assignments before leaving class.
4. When possible, teachers should collaborate with other teachers in giving homework assignments so that an unusually heavy work load is avoided on any given subject or any given night.
5. Homework should never be assigned as a disciplinary measure or busy work. Tasks such as covering books, securing parent signatures, checking grades on Infinite Campus, bringing in supplies, paying school fees, etc. should be considered student responsibilities and not be included in academic grades or as homework grades.

## **REGULATION No. 212 - CONTINUED**

6. Homework should not create inequity or otherwise cause a disadvantage to students' learning success due to time or resources available within the family to complete homework tasks.
7. The frequency and length of assignments may vary according to individual student needs and complexity of curriculum. Accommodations must be provided for any student receiving services for special education, 504 disabilities, or as an English Language Learner in accordance with their respective educational plans.
8. At the secondary level, homework grading procedures should be defined at the beginning of a course and communicated to students and parents. At the elementary level, homework expectations should be consistent within each grade level and should be communicated to parents and students at the beginning of the year.

### **B. Administrators:**

1. The District's homework policy and regulation as well as any site-based guidelines should be communicated to students and parents/guardians through the student handbook and by posting expectations on school websites.
2. Teachers should be provided support and professional learning time to develop quality instructional practices around the use of homework and to discuss the relationship between homework, assessment, and grading.
3. The effective use and application of homework must be monitored in each school and in individual classrooms. Special attention should be paid to ensure student individualized education plans are being followed. Leadership and coaching should be provided through thoughtful planning discussions during PLC meetings and professional learning day activities.
4. Information regarding homework help programs and tutoring opportunities for any student who requires instructional support will be provided to parents.

### **C. Students and Parents/Guardians:**

1. A quiet place to complete work should be established and time should be set aside and devoted each night to complete assigned homework.
2. Parents are encouraged to consult the student's teacher and/or counselor if they observe either excessive time being spent on homework or if they have questions concerning specific homework assignments.
3. Parents are encouraged to review their students' homework for completion and offer support if necessary.
4. Students should be encouraged to pursue non-assigned, independent, leisure reading.

## **REGULATION No. 212 - CONTINUED**

### **II. Homework Time:**

The following guidelines are based on the research of Harris M. Cooper of Duke University. Mr. Cooper, a leading researcher on homework, proposed the “10-minute rule,” suggesting that homework be limited to 10 minutes per grade level. The National Education Association and the National Parent Teacher Association have endorsed this guideline.

#### **A. For elementary school:**

1. Kindergarten should be assigned homework no more than four times per week, requiring an average time of ten (10) minutes each night to complete.
2. First grade students should be assigned homework no more than four times per week, requiring an average time of ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes each night to complete.
3. Second grade students should be assigned homework no more than four times per week, requiring an average time of twenty (20) minutes each night to complete.
4. Third grade students should be assigned homework no more than four times per week, requiring an average time of thirty (30) minutes each night to complete.
5. Fourth grade students should be assigned homework no more than four times per week, requiring an average time of forty (40) minutes each night to complete.
6. Fifth grade students should be assigned homework no more than four times per week, requiring an average time of fifty (50) minutes each night to complete.

#### **B. For middle school:**

1. Sixth grade students should be assigned no more than 240 minutes of homework per week for all courses combined (for example, four times per week requiring approximately sixty (60) minutes each night to complete).
2. Seventh grade students should be assigned no more than 280 minutes of homework per week for all courses combined (for example, four times per week requiring approximately seventy (70) minutes each night to complete).
3. Eighth grade students should be assigned no more than 320 minutes of homework per week for all courses combined (for example, four times per week requiring approximately eighty (80) minutes each night to complete). Accelerated or honors classes may require additional hours per week.

#### **C. For high school:**

1. Ninth through twelfth grade students in general academic classes should expect an average of six to ten hours of homework per week for all courses combined. Accelerated, honors, and advanced placement class assignments require additional hours per week to complete. Alternative education classes may require less homework per week as a majority of the work may be expected to be completed with direct guidance from the classroom teacher.

## **REGULATION No. 212 - CONTINUED**

### **III. Summer Assignments:**

1. Summer assignments are at the discretion of the principal. All summer assignments must be pre-approved by the principal or designee by the deadline set by the principal.
2. Because these assignments are often a barrier to students, if school policy allows for work to be assigned, appropriate supports must be in place to ensure students are given access to assistance and resources.
3. Summer assignments must have a stated purpose and link to grade level standards and district designated curriculum.
4. Summer assignments should be of reasonable length.
5. Assignments must be given to students two weeks before the last day of school. This will enable students to access the teacher for questions or assistance.
6. Assignments must be posted to the school website or posted in a location that is accessible to all students.
7. Students who enroll late or transfer in should be given every opportunity to complete the assignment.
8. Classroom activities based on the summer assignment must accommodate students who have not yet completed the assignment.
9. Students will not be dropped from courses due to lack of completion of a summer assignment.

Adopted: April 15, 1981

Revised: December 1, 1983

June 9, 2020