

Acalanes Union HSD

Board Policy

Homework/Makeup Work

BP 6154

Instruction

Homework

Homework is defined as the assigned learning activities that students work on outside of the classroom. Homework should reinforce classroom learning objectives and be related to individual student needs and abilities. It includes independent preview, practice or completion of skills and concepts taught during class, projects, test and performance preparation, and independent reading. Homework should be tied to classroom instruction and should support a deepening of student understanding and skills.

The Governing Board recognizes that homework may help students achieve academic success. Homework should be assigned in a thoughtful manner when it is deemed necessary, recognizing that some teachers may choose to assign a limited amount or no homework depending on their curriculum and the needs of their course of study. Additionally, the Board recognizes the value of extracurricular activities, and understands that unstructured time and adequate sleep are critical factors for students' mental health and their success in school. Students and parents will have the support of school counselors when selecting courses to balance choices in course selection and extracurricular activities.

The Board believes, as research supports, that student learning is positively affected when homework assignments are purposeful and engaging, and are appropriate in quality and quantity.

Research also shows that an undisturbed and focused environment is best for student learning during the homework process. To the extent possible, homework should be completed in places and at a time that allows for focused, productive work. Students and parents are encouraged to limit access to social media, and other distractions, unless required to complete the assignment.

The Board is committed to addressing equity issues related to homework. Teachers shall collaborate to design purposeful and relevant homework. Assignments shall be coordinated and reasonably consistent within common courses to achieve parity in the student educational experience. Within the courses, teachers may adjust homework to be appropriate to meet individual student needs.

Teachers shall clearly communicate the purpose and relevance of homework. Students will be informed of the homework assignment in class providing them with an opportunity to ask clarifying questions and ask for support. In addition, homework will be posted on the District designated on-line platform by the end of the school day in which it is assigned.

Homework deadlines will be on the day the class meets. Weekend deadlines for homework assignments are prohibited.

With the exception of diagnostic or benchmark assessments, no tests will be given and no major assignments due during the first week of a semester. With the exception of final exam review material or material connected to the final exam, no homework will be assigned or will be due during Final Exam weeks.

Homework will not be assigned during the extended school breaks (Summer, Thanksgiving, Winter, Spring) with the exception of the Advanced Placement courses. Teachers of Advanced Placement courses may assign reasonable homework during Summer and Spring Breaks. Summer homework assigned by AP teachers shall be pre-approved by the Principal.

Long-term projects in all courses may span Thanksgiving and Spring breaks and multiple weekends; however, such assignments may not be due immediately following an extended school break. Group work shall not be assigned during extended school breaks (Thanksgiving, Winter, Spring breaks). Students may choose to work on assignments during these periods at their discretion.

The District strongly encourages students to pursue summer reading and other academic activities for enjoyment and enrichment.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each school has an effective plan to implement the homework policy.

Make-up Work

A student with an excused absence from school shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence which can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion, shall be given full credit therefore. Assignments must be made up by the student within two course periods of when the assignment was due. For prolonged absences (three days or longer) the time for completing missed assignments shall be determined by the teacher. The tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments which the student missed during the absence. Long term assignments are due on the assigned due date unless other arrangements are made with the teacher.

The following absences are excused: (Education Code 48205)

1. Personal illness
2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer
3. Medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic appointments
4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the immediate family.

- a. Excused absence in this instance shall be limited to one day if the service is conducted in California or three days if the service is conducted out of state. (Education Code 48205)
 - b. "Immediate family" shall be defined as mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, spouse, son/son-in-law, daughter/daughter-in-law, brother, sister or any relative living in the student's immediate household. (Education Code 45194, 48205)
5. Jury duty in the manner provided by law (Education Code 48205)
 6. Exclusion from school, for up to five school days, for failure to present evidence of immunization (Education Code 46010)
 7. Appearance in court
 8. Observation of a religious ceremony of her or his religion (Education Code 46014)
 9. Attendance at an employment conference where the pupil's absence has been requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or designee.
 10. If a student is the custodial parent of a child, his/her absence shall be excused when the child is ill or has a medical appointment during school hours. (Education Code 48205)

For the purpose of homework/make-up work only, the following shall be considered excused absences:

1. College visitations
2. Working election polls
3. Suspensions
4. Family vacations (family vacations are discouraged during the school year.)
5. School activities

Students who miss school work because of truancy may be given the opportunity to make up missed work for full or reduced credit. Teachers shall assign such make-up work as necessary to ensure academic progress, not as a punitive measure.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

Teachers shall require a suspended student to complete any assignments and tests missed during suspension. (Education Code 48913)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48205 Absences for personal reasons

48913 Completion of work missed by suspended student

48980 Parental notifications

58700-58702 Tutoring and homework assistance program; summer school apportionment credit

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Research-Supported Strategies to Improve the Accuracy and Fairness of Grades, Governance Brief, July 2016

Policy ACALANES UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: February 3, 1998 Lafayette, California

revised: July 21, 2004

revised: February 20, 2019