

## **KILLEEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Homework Procedure**

### **I. PHILOSOPHY**

The Killeen Independent School District endorses the use of homework as a researched-based instructional strategy that can increase student achievement, foster independence and responsibility, and serve as a vital link between school and home.

### **II. DEFINITION**

Homework is defined as any learning activity completed by the student as an extension of classroom instruction, not including the self-assigned activities voluntarily undertaken by the student. The additional practice and application of knowledge and skills deepens understanding and proficiency; thereby, increasing student achievement.

### **III. TYPES OF HOMEWORK**

Teachers assign different types of homework to accomplish specific purposes.

- A. **Practice homework** helps students master specific knowledge and skills that have been presented in class.
- B. **Preparation homework** is designed to motivate or prepare students for knowledge and skills that they have not yet mastered. Teachers may assign students to read text, take notes on reading, work on solving a problem that will illustrate the need to learn upcoming material, or gather information from resources outside of class.
- C. **Extension homework** provides students the opportunity to apply or transfer specific knowledge and skills to a new situation or in an original response. Teachers may assign a written composition, a demonstration, a compare/contrast assignment, visual display, or technology presentation.

**NOTE:** *Class work that could have been completed during the class time allowed is not considered homework even if the student is given the opportunity to complete the assignment at home.*

### **IV. HOMEWORK GUIDELINES**

- A. Practice homework will be assigned only when students have had guided practice and are secure enough in those skills to be able to complete them independently and successfully.
- B. Homework or the threat of additional homework will not be used to enforce discipline in the classroom.
- C. Homework will not be assigned during the following times with an exception made for study/review guides.
  - 1. Group standardized testing, district-approved criterion-referenced tests, and state assessments.
  - 2. Semester exams (grades 8-12)
  - 3. Official school holidays (does not include teacher workdays)

**NOTE:** *Items 1, 2, and 3 apply only to those students who are involved in the testing.*

**NOTE:** *If long-term assignments are made, it is the responsibility of the teacher to plan those assignments and periodic progress checks for times that do not compel students to work during holidays (e.g., assignments should not be made shortly before holidays and be due shortly after holidays).*

- D. The recommended amount of time that students spend on homework varies by grade level:
- K-2 Total not to exceed 30 minutes per day (includes long-term projects)
  - 3 Total not to exceed 45 minutes per day (includes long-term projects)
  - 4-5 Total not to exceed 60 minutes per day (includes long-term projects)
  - 6-8 Total not to exceed 90 minutes per day
  - 9-12 Total not to exceed 120 minutes per day
- E. Teachers will consider the cumulative effect of homework assignments (i.e., math + language arts + social studies, etc.; one-day assignments + prorated time for long-term assignments + study or reading time).
1. It is anticipated that students will not have homework assignments in every class every day.
  2. Time recommendations are for diligent students taking regular-level classes. Students who work more slowly, who work with distractions (*television, iPods, text messaging, radio, and cell phone interruptions*) or who take honors-level classes (TAG, Pre-AP and AP) may exceed these estimates.
  3. It is the student's responsibility to prorate the time needed for long-term assignments.
- F. Homework is one part of a multi-faceted evaluation program and is not to be the only source of formative grades.
- G. Students will receive timely and meaningful feedback on homework assignments.
- H. KISD recognizes that there are times when students will not complete homework within the designated timeframe. Each campus shall define procedures for "late homework."
- I. When homework is assigned to reinforce skills, there should be a consistency between the content and format of material presented in class and homework assignments.

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