

HOMEWORK POLICY - FACT SHEET

The new version of the TDSB Homework Policy 2008 builds on our existing policy and reinforces homework as an engaging and relevant learning activity. The policy is founded on sound teaching and learning practice, current research, the TDSB Student Census data and the results of extensive consultation with parents, educators and community. The policy reinforces the Board's commitment to the assignment of homework in a purposefully planned manner that is directly connected to a student's school program and learning expectations of the Ontario Curriculum. It balances time required to complete homework with extra curricular activities scheduled outside of the school day and activities that support personal and family wellness.

It is expected that the policy will be implemented starting September 2008.

Highlights include:

- Four types of homework defined, with identification of specific intended outcomes and application for effective learning.
- Homework should not be assigned to kindergarten-aged children. Rather, families are encouraged to engage in early learning activities such as playing, talking and reading together in English or in the family's first language.
- Homework assigned in the early grades will more often take the form of reading, playing a variety of games, having discussions and interactive activities.
- In the late Primary and Junior grades, effective homework will begin to take the form of independent work.
- Homework for older students should be no longer than 1 hour for grades 7 and 8 students and no more than 2 hours for grades 9 to 12 students.
- No homework assigned on school holidays or days of significance.
- Wherever possible, homework will be assigned by teachers in blocks of time so that families can best support homework completion by balancing the time required to complete homework with extra curricular activities scheduled outside of the school day and activities that support personal and family wellness.
- A move away from time-by-grade guidelines to emphasize homework that is differentiated by division/grade to reflect unique learning needs of individual students.
- Where appropriate, there will be progressive consequences for incomplete homework. Punitive measures are not appropriate as they provide powerful disincentives.

Additional Information:

- Students who are facing disciplinary action such as suspension or expulsion will be provided homework in accordance with the provisions of Part XIII of the Education Act.
- In order to support the new policy we are collecting examples of meaningful, relevant and engaging homework activities to share exemplary practices across

the system. Examples can be sent to **homework@tdsb.on.ca**. Homework activities will be posted on the program department website in September 2008 as a reference and resource for teachers.

- The New TDSB Homework Policy 2008 can be accessed on the TDSB website drop down menu Program, Teaching and Learning. The Policy is also being translated into the 12 official TDSB languages which can be accessed shortly at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/boardroom/pandp/PolicyAndProcedures.asp> search for Homework, document P.036.
- Student Agenda pages have been adapted to reflect the new policy.