

Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF BOARD RULE: INITIAL
READING 6Gx13- 6A-1.23, HOMEWORK

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: SEAMLESS PRE-K THROUGH TWELVE CURRICULUM

At the School Board meeting of February 11, 2009, Agenda Item H-11 was presented by Vice Chair Dr. Marta Pérez and approved by the School Board directing staff to review and amend the School Board Rule on Homework. This item is submitted for consideration by the Board to amend School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.23, *Homework* which addresses factors that should be considered by teachers when assigning homework to their students. In addition to the factors currently in the rule, teachers will also consider that materials necessary to complete homework assignments are readily available and do not create a financial burden, that holidays and spring/winter recesses are taken into account when assigning homework, and that group projects are provided ample class time for completion and the evaluation of these projects reflect individual student effort.

Attached are Notice of Intended Action and the rule proposed for amendment. Changes from the current rule are indicated by underscoring words to be added and ~~striking through~~-words to be deleted.

Authorization of the Board is requested for the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act for the amendment of Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.23, *Homework*.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to amend School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.23, Homework.

C-101

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on April 22, 2009, its intention to amend Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.23, Homework, at its meeting of June 17, 2009.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The recommended amendment is the result of a review of factors that should be considered by teachers when they assign homework to their students.

SUMMARY: In addition to the factors currently in the rule, teachers shall ensure that materials necessary to complete homework assignments are readily available and do not create a financial burden, that holidays and spring/winter recesses are taken into account when assigning homework, and that group projects are provided ample class time for completion and the evaluation of these projects reflect individual student effort.

SPECIFIC LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH RULEMAKING IS AUTHORIZED: 1001.41(1) (2); 1001.42(25); and 1001.43(10), F.S.

LAW IMPLEMENTED, INTERPRETED, OR MADE SPECIFIC: 1001.41(3); 1001.42(9) (17); 1001.51(6); 1003.42, F.S.

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF June 17, 2009, which begins at 1:00 p.m., in the School Board Auditorium, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132. Persons requesting such a hearing or who wish to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided in Section 120.541(1), F.S., must do so in writing by May 18, 2009, to the Superintendent of Schools, Room 912, at the same address.

ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL THE DECISION made by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, with respect to this action will need to ensure the preparation of a verbatim record of the proceedings, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes)

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AMENDED RULE is available at cost to the public or inspection and copying in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

Originator: Dr. Marta Pérez
Date: April 13, 2009

Instruction - Elementary and Secondary**HOMEWORK**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizes regular, purposeful homework as an essential component of the instructional process in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Homework is an integral factor in fostering the academic achievement of students and in extending school activities into the home and the community. Regular homework provides opportunities for developmental practice, drill, the application of skills already learned, the development of independent study skills, enrichment activities, and self discipline. Homework should provide reinforcement and extension of class instruction, and should serve as a basis for further study and preparation for future class assignments. In light of the major purposes for homework, it is not to be assigned as punishment for students for disciplinary reasons.

Responsibility for homework should gradually increase for students in grades one through five. Secondary school homework assignments should recognize that more time and individual student initiative are expected in order to meet increased instructional demands. Homework assignments to exceptional students should reflect the special needs of such students.

In general, homework assignments will be completed for the following day; however, long-range assignments and/or special projects should provide students with an opportunity to develop and refine research and independent study skills and the ability to work independently. Teachers should review evidence of progress periodically before the student submits a long-range assignment.

Teachers shall consider the following factors when making homework assignments:

1. The grade level of the student
2. Level and degree of difficulty of the subject being studied
3. The maturity level of the student
4. The instructional needs of the student
5. The purpose of the assignment and its relation to the objectives of the course under study
6. The length of the assignment and the amount of time that will be required to complete it

7. Homework demands being made in other subject areas
8. Materials that are readily available to students and do not create a financial burden
9. Holidays, as well as Spring and Winter breaks
10. Evaluation of group projects based on individual student participation
11. Provision of ample time in class for completion of group projects

It is the responsibility of the school staff to assure quality and value in homework through making assignments which are:

1. An outgrowth of classroom instruction
2. Clear and definite in purpose
3. Clearly related to the objectives and competencies being pursued in the classroom

Principals will be responsible for:

1. Communicating the School Board Rule on homework to staff members, students, and parents/guardians
2. Reviewing the School Board Homework Rule with the total school staff
3. Encouraging parents/guardians to communicate with the school if a student's homework assignments are excessive or not sufficiently challenging to the student, according to the parents'/guardians' views
4. Monitoring the implementation of the homework rule
5. Emphasizing reading as an integral part of the school's homework policy

Teachers will be responsible for:

1. Teaching independent study skills
2. Making specific assignments

3. Checking, reviewing, evaluating, and/or grading student homework, according to the teacher's individual methods, in keeping with a system that is clearly explained to the class
4. Giving feedback on homework assignments in a timely manner
5. Making instructions related to homework clear and providing, when necessary, a short period of supervised study or a period of questioning to insure that the students understand the assignment
6. Assigning students homework that includes at least 30 minutes each day devoted to reading

Students will be responsible for:

1. Completing assigned homework as directed
2. Returning homework to the teacher by the designated time
3. Submitting homework assignments which reflect careful attention to detail and quality of work
4. Devoting at least 30 minutes to reading as part of the homework assignment

Parents'/Guardians' responsibilities include:

1. Providing continued interest and concern for the child's successful performance in school through encouraging and supporting the child in his/her performance of homework assigned
2. Indicating an interest about assignments and assisting, if possible, when requested by the child, but not to include performing the work for the child
3. Supporting the school in regard to the students' being assigned homework
4. Requesting assignments for students when short term absences are involved
5. Assisting the school in stressing the importance of reading and its benefits
6. Assuring that students read for a period of at least 30 minutes each day in addition to any other assigned homework

It is understood that it is not the parent's/guardian's responsibility to have to give a great deal of assistance to the student in completing homework. Parents or other family members should, however, make every effort to read to students who cannot read on their own during the assigned homework period.

It is the school's responsibility to make instructions related to homework clear and to provide, when necessary, a short period of supervised study or a period of questioning to ensure that the students understand the assignment.

Frequency and Quantity of Homework Assignments

Each school, when implementing this homework policy, should consider these guidelines as daily averages:

Grade Level	Frequency of Assignments	Total Daily Average (All Subjects)
K-1	Daily (5 days a week)	30 minutes
2-3	Daily (5 days a week)	45 minutes
4-5	Daily (5 days a week)	60 minutes
6-7-8	Daily (5 days a week)	75 minutes
9-12	Daily (5 days a week)	120 minutes

Note: These times do not reflect the additional 30 minutes that are to be devoted to reading.

Reading is recognized as a universal skill that relates to all subjects. Therefore, when specific homework assignments are not given, or when the homework assignment is completed in an expeditious manner, every student will read, minimally, for the amount of time specified in this Board Rule.

Kindergarten teachers shall exercise judgment in making homework assignments, considering the child's readiness level and the type of work to be accomplished. It is recommended that parents/guardians read aloud to their children.

At the secondary level, students in academic classes should receive a minimum of two homework assignments each week in each class. These assignments should be reflected in the student's class grade.

Specific Authority: ~~230.22(2)~~ 1001.41(1)(2); 1001.42(25); 1001.43(10) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: ~~230.22(1); 230.33(6); 233.061;~~
~~233.0612;~~ 1001.41(3); 1001.42(9)(17); 1001.51(6); 1003.42 F.S.

History THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
Repromulgated : 12-11-74
Amended: 1-11-84; 10-10-90; 5-13-98