		Commission scolaire English-Montréal English Montreal School Board
POLICY:	HOMEWORK	CODE: PS-16
Origin:	Pedagogical Services	
Authority:	Resolution #02-05-29-7.2.2	
Reference(s):	Quebec Education Act, Section 96.13	

RATIONALE

Homework is the extension of classroom instruction and an important part of a student's learning experience. The English Montreal School Board (EMSB) Homework Policy has been developed to provide a general orientation for homework practices in the EMSB schools.

Relevant legal excerpts are included in Appendix 1.

POLICY STATEMENT

The English Montreal School Board recognizes the importance of students' independent engagement in the learning process, both in and outside the classroom, and encourages the assignment of homework.

The English Montreal School Board believes in the value of homework when it is meaningful to the students and is guided by specific instructional purposes. To foster academic success, the amount and type of homework assigned should reflect students' developmental level and specific needs.

FIELD OF APPLICATION

The policy applies to all schools in the elementary and secondary sectors.

PRINCIPLES

Homework assignments should be aligned with orientations espoused by the Quebec Education Program and must aim at developing each student's competencies.

The homework policy is based on the fundamental principles that meaningful homework:

1. reinforces students' learning and enhances academic achievement;
2. provides the opportunity to develop students' sense of responsibility and accountability;
3. fosters intellectual discipline and life-long learning skills.

The English Montreal School Board promotes a collaborative effort among all partners, (administrators, teachers, students and parents) in the establishment and application of a homework policy at the school level.

OBJECTIVE


The EMSB homework policy provides a frame of reference for the development of each school's homework policy.

DEFINITIONS

Homework consists of purposeful learning activities related to the school program that are assigned to students and completed outside of class time.

Homework generally falls into one or more of the following categories:

1. *practice assignments* that reinforce newly acquired skills or knowledge;
2. *preparation assignments* that help students get ready for learning that will occur in the classroom;
3. *extension assignments* that require students to apply previous learnings in a new context and provide challenging opportunities for research and enrichment;
4. *creative assignments* that encourage students to develop their own ideas related to a given topic and emphasize creative learning and initiative.

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PROCEDURE:	HOMEWORK POLICY	CODE: PS-16.P
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that homework assignment practices are aligned with the orientations of the Quebec Education Program.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The principal of each school, after consultation with the teachers, shall be responsible for the establishment of a homework policy in the school. The principal shall take the steps necessary to ensure that teachers, pupils and parents are informed of the school's homework policy at the beginning of each school year. The principal shall ensure that the school's Homework Policy is respected.
2. The governing board of each school is responsible for approving the homework policy proposed by the principal.
3. Teachers are responsible for applying the school's homework policy in accordance with the Ministry of Education programs and the needs of the students.
4. Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the school homework policy, to schedule a routine time for homework to be completed, to provide a suitable environment for the performance of homework activities and to be mindful that their child completes assignments.

GUIDELINES

1. Homework tasks shall be given regularly. Teachers shall verify, on a regular basis, the quality and the completion of given assignments.
2. As a student advances through school, his/her capacity to manage homework increases quantitatively and qualitatively. Collaboration on a regular basis to determine the amount and type of homework assigned is encouraged among cycle teachers and also between teachers and their students.
3. Homework should be assigned in a meaningful context and must pursue specific learning purposes.
4. Homework activities may include the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT).
5. When homework is assigned, individual differences must be taken into account. Activities shall be appropriate to the students' level of achievement and shall reflect the specific needs of individual students or groups of students.

APPENDIX 1

Quebec Education Act, Section 96.13

The principal shall assist the governing board in the exercise of its functions and powers and, for that purpose, the principal shall:

1. *coordinate the development, implementation and periodical evaluation of the school's educational project;*
2. *ensure that the proposals required under this chapter are prepared and submitted to the governing board for approval;*
3. *encourage concerted action between the parents, the students and the staff, their participation in the life of the school and their collaboration in fostering academic success;*
4. *inform the governing board on a regular basis concerning the proposals approved by the principal under Section 96.15.*