



Resource 2

Purposes and Benefits of Homework

Use this tool to create well designed homework activities. Dr. Joyce Epstein has identified broad purposes for homework listed in the table.

Purpose	Benefits
Practice	Gives each student an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of skills taught in class; to increase speed, mastery and maintenance of skills.
Preparation	Ensures that students are ready for classes and that activities and assignments are complete as necessary.
Participation	Increases each student's individual involvement in applying specific skills and knowledge while enjoying learning.
Personal Development	Builds student responsibility, perseverance, time management, self-confidence and feelings of accomplishment; develops and recognizes students' diverse talents and skills that may not be taught in school.
Parent-Child Relations	Establishes communication between parent and child on the importance of schoolwork and the application of school skills in real-life situations and experiences.
Parent-Teacher Communications	Enables teachers to inform families and involve them in children's curricular activities and keep families aware of topics that are taught in school, how their children are progressing toward meeting the <i>New Mexico Content Standards</i> and how to support their children's work and progress at home.
Peer Interactions	Encourages students to work together on assignments or projects to motivate and learn from each other.
Policy	Fulfills directives from administrators at the district or school level for a prescribed amount of homework per day or week.
Public Relations	Demonstrates to the general public that a school has rigorous standards for student work in school and at home and establishes a base for productive business and community partnerships for student learning.
NOT Punishment	NOT to correct problems in conduct or productivity.