



Homework

Homework is an important part of learning for all students. TDSB has an established **Homework Policy** founded on sound teaching and learning practice, current research, TDSB Student Census data, and extensive consultation with parents, educators, and the community. It moves away from traditional time-by-grade guidelines to emphasize assignments that reflect the unique learning needs of individual students.

Why Homework?

- Relevant, topical homework assignments promote high quality student learning, mastery and achievement, especially in secondary school.
- Homework encourages students to develop independent, effective study habits that nurture a lifelong love of learning.

What is Appropriate Homework?

- Homework is part of a positive learning experience and not intended to be punitive.
- Homework is curriculum-based with a direct link to topics or skills that have been taught in class, and enhance student learning.
- Homework is clear so students understand what they are expected to do for each homework assignment.

How Much is the Right Amount of Homework?

- Students in Grades 9 to 12 should expect to complete up to two hours of homework per evening.
- Homework should meet the developmental needs and abilities of individual students, and be modified, when necessary.
- Homework is designed so that families can balance the time needed to complete homework with extra-curricular activities scheduled outside of the school day (for example, activities that support personal and family wellness).
- Homework will not be assigned on scheduled holidays as outlined in the School Year and Days of Significance calendars.

What are Students'

Responsibilities Around Homework?

- Recording homework in their agenda or planner, and making sure they clearly understand the homework expectations.
- Asking their teacher for clarification or help when tasks or expectations are not clear, or if they have a time conflict because of homework assignments in several different subjects.
- Managing their time and materials responsibly.
- Regularly completing assigned homework in a timely manner, to the best of their abilities.

How Can Parents Support Student Learning?

- Parents can help by talking to children about their homework and ensuring that homework time is part of a regular, scheduled routine.
- Parents can help by making sure students have a learning space at home.
- Schools should communicate with parents in many ways throughout the school year about the purpose and goals of homework, including at curriculum nights, parent-teacher conferences, School Council meetings and through student agendas, newsletters and websites.
- Homework assignments may be designed to involve parents and guardians in supporting their children's learning, however homework will not require them to teach concepts.

Please review our Academic Honesty procedure (PR613) and Late and Missed Assignments procedure (PR614) at www.tdsb.on.ca.

Student Accident Insurance

The TDSB does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that take place on school property or during school sponsored activities.

For information on how to purchase **Accident Insurance coverage for your child**, visit www.insuremykids.com or call toll free at **1-800-463-KIDS (5437)**.

Many Pathways to Success

your future success, but there are many pathways to graduation. Whether your destination is workplace, college, university, or apprenticeship, the TDSB offers a broad range of secondary programs and learning opportunities that let you choose the path that matches your strengths, interests and career goals.

Specialized programs that focus on Arts, Math & Science, Technology, Experiential Learning, flexible on-line learning and Dual Credit opportunities, Skills Enhanced and Specialist High Skills Majors and many other choices are yours to explore.

Diploma Requirements

To receive a secondary school diploma, students must complete the literacy requirement (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test or Ontario Literacy Course), as well as 40 hours of community involvement. Students must earn a total of 30 credits, including 18 compulsory credits and 12 optional credits.

To learn more about your options and **Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirements**, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/choices.

Secondary Night and Summer Programs

TDSB offers night and summer school programs that provide secondary students and adults with more opportunities to earn credits, develop literacy skills and complete diploma requirements.

For more information, visit www.creditprograms.ca.



E-Learning Expands Opportunities

E-Learning is one more way for students who excel in a flexible learning environment to take credit courses that may not be available in your OSR (home) school or to help resolve a timetable conflict. TDSB e-Learning offers a range of courses primarily at the senior level (Grades 11 and 12). The courses and on-line classroom are provided by the Ministry of Education through e-Learning Ontario, taught by TDSB secondary teachers. They'll appear on your timetable and your transcript.

Speak to your Guidance Counsellor or visit www.tdsb.on.ca/elearning to find out more.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

PLAR is a “challenge” that allows students to earn secondary school diploma credits for learning they’ve done outside of the classroom. TDSB students may request a formal evaluation of their skills and knowledge against the expectations outlined in the Ontario curriculum for current Grades 10, 11 and 12 courses taught in TDSB schools.

Through the PLAR process, students may “challenge” for one credit per year and earn no more than four credits including a maximum of two credits in any one discipline.

To learn more about **PLAR** and how to apply for a formal evaluation, contact your **Guidance Counselor**.

Religious Accommodation

Students who need accommodations for religious observances or spiritual practices should speak with their school Principal or Vice Principal. Verbal or written communication from a parent/guardian/caregiver is required specifying needs relating to religious or spiritual observances, including holy days the student is expected to be absent from school. Please provide this information early in the year to ensure that scheduling of tests, assignments or exams can take religious observances into consideration.