

Homework Survey






Over 2,100 parents/students and 275 teachers responded to the Division homework survey conducted in late September. Teachers were asked the primary purpose of homework:

Q1. What is the primary purpose of homework?			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
Develop critical thinking skills by making connections with material	36	13.09%	
Pre-learning/Class preparation - reading or preparing for new material	11	4.00%	
Apply new skills or knowledge	55	20.00%	
Revisit knowledge and test preparation	63	22.91%	
To deepen understanding of the material through extension	58	21.09%	
Other (Please specify)	52	18.91%	
Total Responses	275		

Teachers generally believe homework has three primary functions: revisit knowledge and prepare to assess their knowledge acquisition, deepen students' understanding of the material, and apply new skills or knowledge. These purposes line up with best practices in homework; that it should reinforce what students have learned either through additional practice or extension.

Q12. To what extent is homework utilized in your class?			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
None	2	2.56%	
Very Little	18	23.08%	
Some	23	29.49%	
A moderate amount	27	34.62%	
A great deal	8	10.26%	
Total Responses	78		

Teachers also reported using homework fairly extensively in class. Nearly half of teachers responded that they used homework a moderate amount or a great deal. These two data points taken together reflect the power of homework to reinforce what students learn and how it is used by teachers to ensure that every student has access to the curriculum and are well prepared to be successful in the course.

1 (g) : Select the best response:: My child has too much homework			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
Never	486	23.52%	
Occasionally	725	35.09%	
Often	500	24.20%	
Always	355	17.18%	
Total Responses	2066		

Parents responded that they believe their students often have too much homework, which would appear to contradict the purposes and uses of homework reported by teachers. It could be that parents perceive their children as overburdened by homework because they don't fully understand why the homework is assigned or how it is being used in the classroom. It could also be that teachers miscalculate how long their homework will take students to complete fully and appropriately.

Based on the results of these surveys it would be valuable to investigate how teachers can get a sense of how long homework takes students and how to communicate with parents the purpose of homework so the time spent on homework is valued.