



NATICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NATICK HIGH SCHOOL VALUE AND EFFICIENCY OF HOMEWORK 2016-2017

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NATICK TARTUFFE & ROBO NATICK





VALUE AND EFFICIENCY OF HW

Essential Question - how do we improve the value and efficiency of homework at Natick High School?

- Review of literature
- Review of neighboring high schools
- Student focus groups and student survey
- Discussions of value, root cause, proposed guidelines and next steps from perspective of students, teachers, parents and School Council



Home > Instruction > Homework > What research says about the value of homework: Research review

What research says about the value of homework: Research review

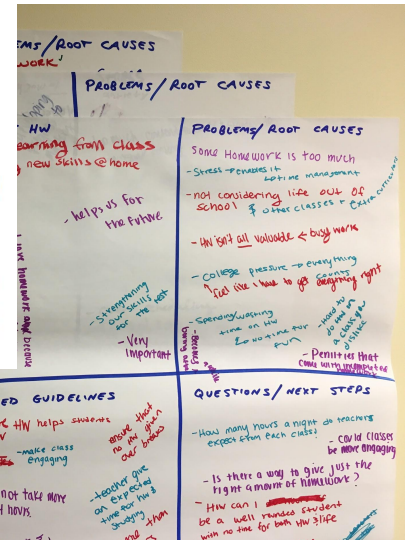
- History of the homework debate.
- Does homework affect student learning?
- Does homework have other effects?
- Does the effect of homework vary with students age?
- How do different groups of students react to homework?
- What types of homework assignments are effective?
- How much time should students spend on homework?
- What the research means for school districts

Does homework help or hinder student learning—and which students, under what conditions, does it help or hinder? School board members have long struggled with this question as they strive to implement policies that will support student learning. Parents worry that their children have too little homework or too much—and teachers get criticized for both.

In recent years, the issue has received increased attention in the popular press and has become a topic of controversy. Unfortunately, research and commentary offer conflicting conclusions on homework.

During the past decade, according to Gill and Schlossman (1996), "leading educational spokespersons have celebrated homework as essential to raise educational standards, foster high academic achievement, upgrade the quality of the labor force, and link family and school in a common teaching mission" (27).

Perspectives vary, however. According to the *School Library Journal* (2005), students are receiving higher grades with less outside preparation, while the *Washington Post* (2006) reports that the increase in the amount of student homework has increased arguments against it. Alfie Kohn, a critic of homework, recently wrote, "There was no consistent linear or curvilinear relation between the amount of time spent on homework and the child's level of academic achievement" (2006, 15).





VALUE AND EFFICIENCY OF HW

Faculty Engagement

- Leadership Team review
- Professional Development
- Department and PLC review, discussion and action

Homework As An *Informative* Assessment

Tracey Calo
Assistant Superintendent
Grafton Public Schools

Essential Question

How can teachers
create homework tasks
that are effective
assessments for
learning?



Design homework tasks that
inform instruction and
advance student learning

Pre-learn



**Check to
Understand
learning**

**Practice
learning**

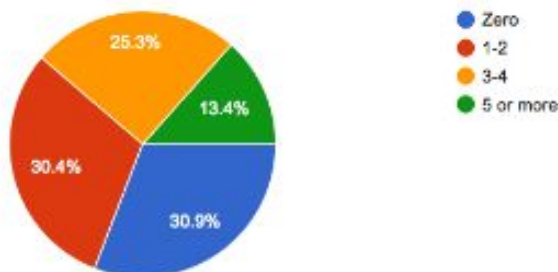
**Process
learning**



HOMESWORK - STUDENT RESPONSES

Are you taking any AP and/or Honors classes? If so, how many do you have on your current schedule?

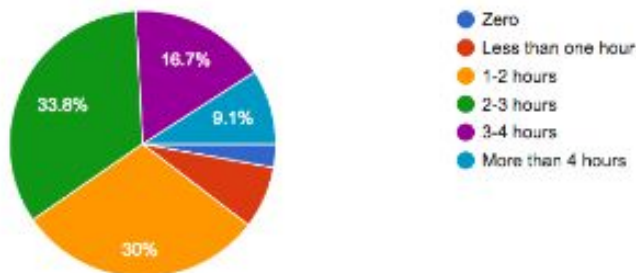
(1231 responses)



Zero = 30.9%
1-2 = 30.4%
3-4 = 25.3%
5 or more = 13.4%

On average, how much time each day do you spend outside of class completing homework? Include only the time that you spend working productively. Do not include distractions or breaks. Please include time that you spend during CDS or Study Halls completing work.

(1231 responses)



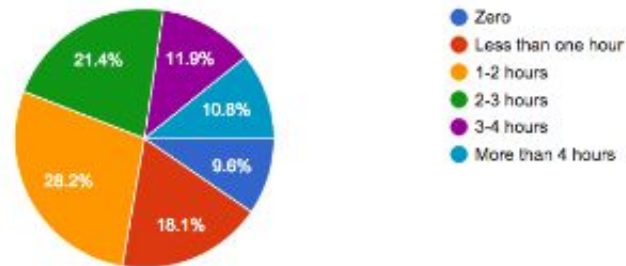
Zero = 2.8%
Less than one hour = 7.6%
1-2 hours = 30%
2-3 hours = 33.8%
3-4 hours = 16.7%
More than four hours = 9.1%



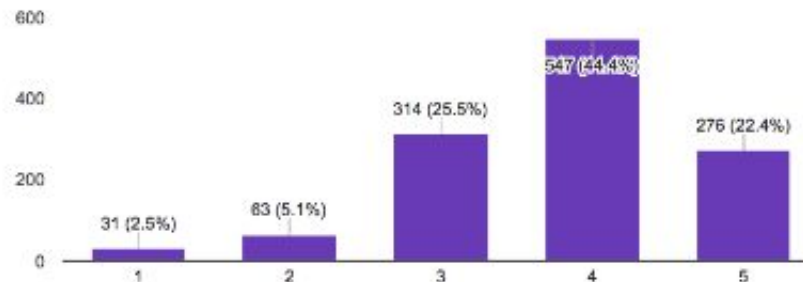
HOMESWORK - STUDENT RESPONSES

On average, how much time do you spend over breaks (Winter, February, April) completing homework? Include only the time that you spend working productively.

(1231 responses)



Do you use your CDS and Study Hall time productively? (1231 responses)

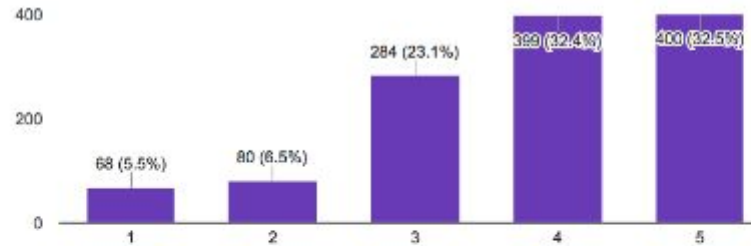


Scale: 1 = not at all; 5 = completely

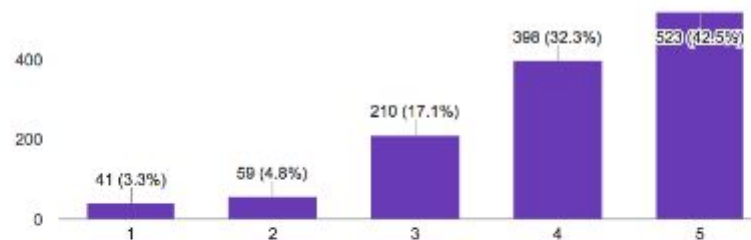


CDS/STUDY HALLS - STUDENT RESPONSES

Is your CDS block a quiet and productive space? If you wanted to work productively the entire time, is your CDS conducive to completing work?
(1231 responses)



Is your Study Hall a quiet and productive space? If you wanted to work productively the entire time, is your Study Hall conducive to completing work?
(1231 responses)



Scale: 1 = not at all; 5 = completely



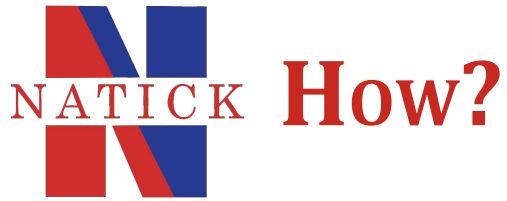
ENHANCING THE VALUE & EFFICIENCY OF HW

Goals

- to maximize the value of homework
- to reduce the stress that students experience with HW
- to reduce the total time that students spend outside of school on HW

How?

- Strictly limit students to no more than seven classes
- Promote balance between honors/APs/extracurriculars
- Discourage students from overriding recommendations
- Promote greater productivity in CDS, Study Halls and classes with a substitute



- Homework-free Rosh Hashanna (September 20-22, 2017)
 - Thursday, September 21 - Schools closed for holiday
 - Friday, September 22 - Schools open
 - No homework, deadlines or assessments due on September 22
 - Assignments may be due Wednesday, Sep 20 and Monday, Sep 25
- Homework-free Winter Break with AP exception
- Encourage homework-free Thanksgiving, February and April breaks
- Teachers to evaluate HW for value and efficiency
- Teachers to articulate the learning objective of each HW assignment and its role in the next class
- All HW assignments posted on teacher websites
- Help students develop more effective self-advocacy skills



PEER ADVOCATES & SERVICE TRIPS

