



# Pacifica School District

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*Preparing Students for an Evolving World*

www.pacificasd.org

## MEMORANDUM

*Office of the Superintendent*

Meeting of October 26, 2016

**TO:** Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Wendy S. Tukloff, Ed.D., Superintendent  
**SUBJECT:** BP/AR 6154 Homework/Makeup Work

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### Background

The Pacifica School District Board of Trustees requested that the topic of Homework be discussed in light of national and community discussions. Attached are the Pacifica School District Board Policy (BP) and Administrative Regulation (AR) 6154 Homework/Makeup Work that provides school guidance in implementing homework/makeup work practice.

In 2015-16 our Leadership Council and Curriculum Specialists and school instructional Leads spent a great deal of time reviewing our policies and practices in Pacifica School District. With the shift to Common Core and the implementation of new curriculum we felt it a good time to reflect on our practices and understandings regarding the purpose of homework and calibrate between schools.

We were guided by the book Classroom Instruction that Works; Marzano, Pickering, and Pollock that is based on a meta-analysis of research-based strategies for increasing student achievement, with homework highlighted as one chapter. I have also reviewed Visible Learning: A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement; Hattie, John. Without getting involved in the statistical analysis about this topic – Marzano's analysis demonstrated homework as an effective strategy and provided key elements that support the effectiveness, with guiding principles that were shared and discussed at Leadership Council (see Attachment). Hattie's work supported the positive effect of homework on student achievement, but underscored moderators in relation to homework that include: 1) grade level differentiation – stronger effect with middle school to high school students; 2) nature of homework – mathematics highest, science and social science lowest; 3) Teacher feedback important dependent on assignment; 4) Parental involvement, may or may not have impact dependent on the manner in which parents become involved.

After much discussion regarding the merits of homework our Leadership Council and Curriculum Leadership agreed on the following points:

1. Homework is a part of our practices for educating our students as it provides an opportunity for extending learning time.
2. Homework must be meaningful.
3. Homework should be something the student is able to do.
4. The amount of homework varies based on the grade level of the student.
5. Schools develop their own practices built upon the guidelines of the Board Policy and Administrative Regulation, as well as the current research.

Homework can be a controversial subject due to differing philosophies. Pacifica School District is committed to using homework as an effective practice to support student achievement. Should parents/students have concern regarding homework, we strongly encourage a discussion with the instructor/school administrator to reach resolution.