



Homework

By Dr. Joyce Edwards, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning

A Homework Study Group was formed in September of 2017, with the primary goal of aligning homework practices across the district to the revised and adopted [School Committee Policy](#) on homework. It had been identified that homework practices across the district varied widely and that a greater degree of consistency was warranted and desired by students, families, and teachers. The Homework Study Group encompassed teachers and administrators representing almost all of the schools, grades, and departments and that work has continued into the 2018-2019 year.

After much research and study about current best practices in the field, the Homework Study Group developed a draft of new proposed homework guidelines for the district. Our work was grounded in the research of Cathy Vatterot, among others. Cathy Vatterot is the author of *Rethinking Homework: Best Practices That Support Diverse Needs*, which served as a foundational text for the group. We also looked to many other Massachusetts districts to determine what homework guidelines might look like elsewhere. Together, we developed our own Franklin proposed guidelines in draft form and are now sharing that work in order to gather feedback from all interested stakeholders.

All school administrators have seen the proposed guidelines and have had the opportunity to weigh in via survey. The School Committee saw a presentation on February 19, 2019, on the proposed guidelines and again, feedback was gathered from their comments as well. We are planning surveys and focus groups for our other stakeholders; we need comments and suggestions from teachers, families, and students across the district. The draft proposed guidelines are [here](#) and the [School Committee presentation is here](#). Please stay tuned for survey and focus group opportunities so that we can collect your feedback in a methodical and organized fashion to improve our draft guidelines where needed.

The goal is to finalize the guidelines prior to the end of the year and have them become a part of our ongoing practice for the 2019-2020 school year. Even after implementation, the Homework Study Group will continue its work as we will monitor the implementation and gather additional feedback on the changes when they go into effect. We look forward to partnering with you in this important and ongoing effort.