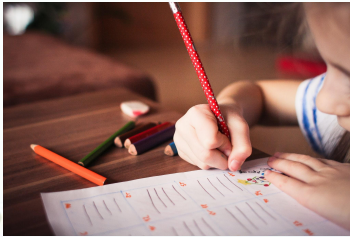
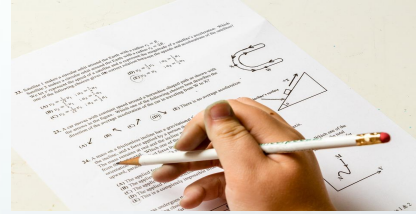


HOMWORK UPDATE

FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DR. JOYCE EDWARDS

MARCH 13, 2018



AGENDA

- + Policy Change
- + District Improvement Plan (DIP)
- + Homework Study Group formation
- + Work to Date
 - + Study and learn
 - + Assess current practices
- + Next Steps
 - + Formulate Recommendations
 - + Solicit input
 - + Family education
- + Vacation Surveys



POLICY CHANGE

School Committee adopted a revised homework policy at the end last year which was designed to include consideration of:

- + The needs of the whole child and families
- + Be appropriate in time and frequency for each developmental stage
- + Be meaningful, relevant, and aligned with work in the classroom
- + Have a clearly articulated purpose, educational objective and learning expectations
- + Be personalized to meet the needs of the learner
- + Be structured to provide students with feedback that leads to improved learning
- + Be consistent, to a reasonable degree, across grade levels and among classrooms
- + Align with current research on best practice as well as school and District policies

[Policy Link](#)



DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN (DIP)

Strategic Objective #2

- *To ensure that all students are supported and challenged to reach their full potential, the Franklin Public Schools will align curriculum, best instructional practices, and varied assessment opportunities to personalize learning and meet individual needs.*



DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN (DIP)

Strategic Objective:

- Create an educator/administrator study group to examine research and best practices with regard to homework and make recommendations for K-12 homework practices and alignment with Franklin School Committee policy.
 - Develop presentation and forum for parents/guardians regarding possible changes to homework practices, grounded in research and best practices in the field.

HOMEWORK STUDY GROUP

Group membership—total of 26 including Dr. Edwards:

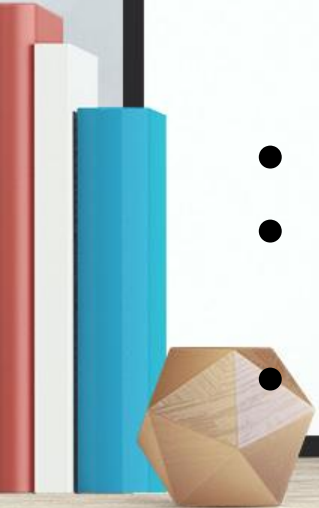
Represents a cross-section of schools/grades/departments:

- Teachers across levels (5 Elementary, 4 Middle School, 6 High School, 1 Special Educator, 1 ELL, 1 Elementary Literacy, 1 MS Subject Coordinator , 1 FHS Department Head)
- Administrators (2 Elementary, 1 Middle School, 1 High School, 1 CO Special Education)
- Group also represented a cross-section of homework beliefs and current practices

HOMEWORK STUDY GROUP

Planned Outcomes:

- Develop recommendations regarding homework practices
 - Gather parent and student voice as part of the process
- SC review of policy to ensure match all the way around
- Parent forum about homework research and practices and any proposed/recommended changes



HOMWORK STUDY GROUP

Initially:

- Discussed why the formation of a study group
- Set purpose of the group as the need for STUDY:
 - Current research and thinking about homework for all grades
 - Examine our personal beliefs and that of colleagues regarding homework
 - Identifying best practices within the research

Resources:

- Read *Rethinking Homework* by Cathy Vatterott
- Many current articles with varying viewpoints



HOMWORK STUDY GROUP

Currently:

- Identifying current practices in Franklin
- Will be developing surveys to secure input

Next Steps:

- Develop preliminary recommendations for any proposed changes to practice
- Seek input about proposed changes from all stakeholders
- Present findings to School Committee to ensure policy and practices align appropriately

HOMEWORK STUDY GROUP

Continued Next Steps:

- + Conduct family forums to educate the community about best practices in homework research and any proposed changes in Franklin
- + Multi-year process which will extend into next year
- + Cycle back into a timely review of any changes implemented to determine effectiveness and impacts on teaching and learning



Homework Survey Results December Response Rates

Who?	How Many Responses?
K-8 Families	568
K-8 Teachers and Staff	136
Middle School Students	1066
FHS Families	268
FHS Teachers and Staff	69
FHS Students	447

Homework Survey Results December Results

- + Overwhelmingly positive response from
- + Large majority endorsed continuing vacation as homework free
- + FHS teachers had most concerns about losing time to advance curriculum yet almost 70% endorsed homework free vacations



Homework Survey Results February Response Rates (as of March 7)

Who?	How Many Responses?
K-8 Families	527
K-8 Teachers and Staff	105
Middle School Students	332
FHS Families	216
FHS Teachers and Staff	65
FHS Students	604

Homework Survey Results February Results

- + Survey data following similar themes, patterns, and trends as December vacation surveys
- + Many families indicated that vacation became less stressful and allowed students to relax
- + Many participants (students, families, and teachers) thanked the district for this approach





THANKS!

Any questions?



CREDITS

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- + Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)

