



# Lexington Public Schools

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Dear Parents, Educators, and Students of the Lexington Public Schools Community,

Right on cue, the August weather has turned and a crispness fills the air, providing us with a reminder that a new school year is upon us. I write today to share an update on recent developments regarding Lexington Public Schools' Homework Policy.

On June 29th, members of the Lexington School Committee approved a new homework policy to be implemented in the 2017-2018 school year. Much thought and consideration were given to both the academic and the social-emotional needs of our students as the policy was developed. The final product is the culmination of an entire year's worth of work - a year that included gathering data from hundreds of parents, educators, and students. I, along with Lexington Education Association President Andrew Baker, visited schools at each level to hold "listening tour" focus groups, gathering feedback from all stakeholders. Hundreds of others contributed by sharing their thoughts on Lexington Listens, through email, and during both informal and formal conversations. I am thankful for your deep thinking about homework and its role in this district, your thoughtful discussion and research, and your willingness to share your honest feedback.

We now turn our focus to the implementation of the policy. This summer, a group of educators and administrators from across the district came together to begin the difficult task of creating an implementation guide so that educators, parents, and students would be able to enter the new school year with an understanding of expectations and how the new policy will affect practice. This plan is a first attempt at providing more specificity for implementation; the challenge for all of us now is to test it out this year and see where theory and practice intersect.

As with any significant change, there are bound to be challenges and struggles along the way. Our implementation guide is not perfect, but it is a good starting point that will lend itself to deep discussion and healthy debate - both of which will lead us to progress that will positively impact our students. In fact, this work-in-progress may change over time as we collaborate to identify what is working and what aspects of the plan might be problematic.

For now, I ask that you please review the new policy along with the implementation plan and make an earnest effort to adhere to the guidelines as written. In the coming days, you will receive additional communication from me regarding ways to provide feedback related to the implementation of the policy. Later, at our October Lexington School Committee meeting, I will invite stakeholders to share their thoughts, experiences, and suggestions for moving forward. I have no doubt that our collective efforts will result in a stronger learning community.

Lexington Public Schools embraces a growth mindset and commitment to continuous improvement. It is my honor to continue to work with you this year as we strive to provide an even stronger foundation for our young people to become engaged, curious, successful adults.

Sincerely,

Mary Czajkowski, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools