

# "Instructional Support Weekly"

Topic: Connect Homework to Specific Learning Goals

Homework should be a benefit, never a detriment, to your students. That means that all homework you assign should help students practice a key element of the curriculum. Homework should never be assigned as "busy-work." Remember that students and parents can tell the difference. As you plan your homework assignments:

**Make sure students understand** the connection between their homework and the learning goal. Write the learning goal on the assignment if necessary. If students realize that you are assigning homework to help them move to mastery, rather than just to take up their time, they may be more likely to finish it and hand it in.

**Ask yourself:** Can the majority of my students complete this homework on their own? There will always be the exceptions, but if students cannot complete homework on their own, you are not asking them to practice or asking them to learn new material, which should be done in the classroom with you - not at home alone.

**Communicate with parents.** Explain to parents how they can act as a resource during homework time—without doing the work for their children. Encourage parents to contact you if they have questions about how to help their children with homework.

Have a great week!

From the Instructional Support Team at STM

Robyn R. Jackson, *Never Work Harder Than Your Students & Other Principles of Great Teaching*, ISBN: 978-1-4166-0757-1 (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, [www.ascd.org/books](http://www.ascd.org/books)).