

A Guide to Standards-Based Instruction for Parents & Guardians



This guide provides a family-friendly overview of what your child will learn by the end of 5th grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy, in an easy-to-understand format.

5th
GRADE

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students are prepared for success after high school. The standards provide an important first step — establish a clear, consistent roadmap for what every student should know and be able to do in Math and English language arts from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare them for college and careers.

English Language Arts & Literacy

Key Ideas & Details	Craft & Structure	Integration of Knowledge & Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Summarizing stories, determining a theme, and describing the author's point of view while using details and quotes from the text to answer questions.</i>• <i>Compare and contrast two or more characters, setting or events in the text (e.g., how characters interact).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Identifying two or more main ideas, text structure and explain how story details support them.</i>• <i>Determine the meaning of words and phrases including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Comparing and contrasting characters, settings, and events in multiple texts in the same genre and being able to use that information while speaking and writing.</i>• <i>Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which points.</i>

Talking to
your child's
teacher

When talking with your child's teacher, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 5th grade, these include:

- ★ Reading closely and drawing evidence from grade-level fiction and nonfiction materials, including the ability to quote accurately from them when answering questions
- ★ Adjusting communications to accomplish a particular purpose (e.g., providing more background information for audiences who do not know the topic well)

Mathematics

Operations & Algebraic Thinking	Number & Operations in Base Ten	Number & Operations - Fractions	Measurement & Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use parentheses, brackets, or braces in numerical expressions, and evaluate expressions with these symbols.• Students can analyze patterns and relationships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognize that in a multi-digit number, a digit in one place represents 10 times as much as it represents in the place to its right and $1/10$ of what it represents in the place to its left.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators (including mixed numbers).• Solve real world problems involving multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measure volumes by counting unit cubes, using cubic cm, cubic in, cubic ft, and improvised units.• Convert among different-sized standard measurement units within a given measurement system.

Geometry

- Classify two-dimensional figures in a hierarchy based on properties.
- Graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world and mathematical problems.

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics.

In 5th grade, these include:

- ★ Multiplying and dividing fractions, and solving related word problems
- ★ Decimals (concepts and arithmetic)
- ★ Volume (concepts and problem-solving)

Talking
to your
child's
teacher

Helping Your Child at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to read and/or study, and carve out time every day for your child to concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 minutes or so while he or she reads or to ask them what they are learning about in class. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Invite your child to read his or her writing out loud to other family members. Ask questions about your child's word choices and ideas.
- Go to a play or musical with your child. Discuss the way the actors bring the words to life.
- Discuss your family stories and history. Encourage your child to ask relatives questions about their lives. Put the information together in an album or brainstorm different ways to tell family tales, such as poems or short stories

Mathematics

Look for "word problems" in real life. Some 5th grade examples might include:

- Doing arithmetic with decimals, for example when balancing a checkbook.
- Multiplying with fractions — for example, if you used about $\frac{2}{3}$ of a $\frac{3}{4}$ -cup measure of vegetable stock, then how much stock did you use? About how much is left?
- Using the length, width, and depth of a garden plot to determine how many bags of garden soil to buy