

WELCOME TO GRADE 1!

A Family's Guide to the *Kentucky Academic Standards*

This guide was made to help families understand the Kentucky Academic Standards and to show what children will learn by the end of 1st grade. This tool provides information about the key ideas and skills teachers will cover in mathematics, reading and writing, science and social studies. It includes possible examples of what students will be asked to do in class, how to help your child at home, questions you can ask your 1st-grader and questions families can ask their child's teacher.

This guide also was designed to help parents understand how they can work with teachers to support the learning of their 1st-grader. When teachers and families work together to help students master Kentucky's Academic Standards, students can succeed by developing the skills they will need for life after graduation.

If you have questions about this information or if your child needs extra help, please contact your child's teacher.

Why are the *Kentucky Academic Standards* important?

Kentucky Academic Standards are important because they help make sure that all students, no matter where they live or what school they attend, have the skills they need to go after a successful future. Standards represent a goal or outcome of a subject area (such as mathematics, reading and writing, science and social studies). They help set clear and consistent expectations for what students should know and be able to do from kindergarten through high school. The standards are not a curriculum and do not determine the design of a lesson plan or how units should be organized. Decisions on how best to help students meet the goals in the standards are left to local school districts and teachers.

How are the standards organized?

The *Kentucky Academic Standards* are organized differently based on the content area. Some of the Kentucky Academic Standards are arranged grade-by-grade, while others are grouped into several grade levels, such as "high school" for grades 9-12. In all subjects, the standards show what students should learn and be able to do, but not how those learning experiences are to be designed or what resources should be used. For more information on the Kentucky Academic Standards, visit <https://ky-standards.org/> to read the complete standards and find standards-related resources.



KYstandards.org



standards@education.ky.gov



facebook.com/kydeptofed



@KyDeptofEd

GRADE 1 MATHEMATICS

OVERVIEW:

During 1st grade, students will develop the ability to add and subtract up to 10. Your child will:

- Develop a strong understanding of adding and subtracting up to 10;
- Add numbers up to 100 using a variety of objects and drawings;
- Explore and compare lengths based on three objects;
- Begin telling time and identify the values of coins; and
- Explore a variety of basic shapes.

Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Understanding the relationship between addition and subtraction;
- Understanding and using place value to add up to 100 and subtract groups of 10;
- Solving problems involving addition and subtraction;
- Comparing and ordering objects by their lengths;
- Working with time and money;
- Drawing 2D shapes and then using them to create 3D shapes; and
- Dividing circles and rectangles into halves and fourths.

How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Have your child solve addition and subtraction word problems by adding to, taking from and comparing during daily household activities.
- Have your child demonstrate numbers larger than 10 by making bundles of 10 Popsicle sticks (for example, 36 can be made with three bundles of 10 with six remaining sticks).
- As you cook, have your student divide objects into halves and fourths (for example, cut a cake in half or fourths).
- Help your child create a table or chart using information collected from polling the family (for example, favorite ice cream flavor or color).

Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- How could we divide this cake into quarters or halves?
- Ask everyone in our family what their favorite type of pizza is and organize the information to show the results. Ask questions about the results like, "Which type of pizza is the most popular in our family?"
- How many tens and ones are in the number 48? If I took a group of 10 away, how much would I have?
- What is the value of a quarter, dime, nickel and penny?
- What number can I add to 7 to make 15?
- Explain what an equal sign (=) means. For example, tell why writing $5 + 1 = 4 + 3$ is wrong.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- How can I show my child what the equal sign means?
- What can I do to help my child with his or her work?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help her or him improve in this area?
- What will my child be learning this year? How can I support his or her development in that area?

GRADE 1 READING AND WRITING

OVERVIEW:

During 1st grade, students will become more independent readers and writers. Your child will:

- Explore syllables, vowel sounds and patterns in words, and recognize the features of a sentence;
- Listen to, read, talk and write about 1st-grade fiction and nonfiction, using clues from the text to help make sense of and analyze what they have read;
- Print numbers 0-120 neatly and all upper- and lowercase letters;
- Write in complete sentences and print neatly; and
- Speak and write using appropriate parts of speech, capitalization, punctuation and phonetic spelling, as well as language that shows a growing vocabulary.

Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Describing characters, settings and major events in a story using key details (the big ideas) to make sense of the plot (how the story unfolds, beginning, middle and end);
- Asking and answering questions about key ideas and details (with support from an adult);
- Writing an opening statement, supporting details and concluding statement to express opinions; and
- Using context clues to determine the meaning of an unknown word.

How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Turn on the closed captioning on your TV or digital device so your child can read the words being said.
- Explore text with your child. Text is anything that communicates a message; read/write a story, watch a TV show, read the cereal box or listen to a poem. Talk about the text together. The goal is to make sense of text using evidence (such as details about the characters, setting, plot, events and facts).
- Let your child pick the type of printed text he or she would like to read with you: comic books, graphic novels, magazines, biographies, historical nonfiction or fiction, etc.
- Use daily conversations to explain the meaning of words and phrases. Conversation goes a long way!

Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- What have you read or heard lately that you would like to read or hear again? Why?
- When reading, ask, "Why do you think that happened?" "Which character would you want as your friend and why?" "What can you learn from ...?" "Why do you believe ...?"
- Ask what your child thinks of different situations and ask why she or he thinks that way.
- I know you understand what "mad" means. What other words do you know that mean something close to "mad"? (for example: angry, upset and furious). Repeat with different words.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- What questions can I ask my child before, during and after reading, viewing or listening to make sure they are understanding a text?
- What sight words or spelling patterns does my child need extra practice to master? Ask for a few game suggestions to play at home to practice the patterns/words.
- Can you show me a sample of some writing my child has done recently? What are my child's strengths and areas for growth as writer?

GRADE 1 SCIENCE

OVERVIEW:

During 1st grade, your child will be an active learner who will be doing science to learn science. They will learn skills that promote analysis and interpretation of data, critical thinking and problem solving like professionals in the field while making connections across the different areas of science to develop a deeper understanding of the science concepts. Your child will:

- Investigate the relationship between sound and vibration and the connection between light and our ability to see objects.
- Increase their understanding of how plants and animals use the outer parts of their body to help them survive, grow and meet their needs.
- Learn how parents and their young engage in behaviors that help their offspring survive (for example, when a mother animal hears its offspring cry, it provides food) and study how young plants and animals are similar to, but not exactly the same as, their parents; and
- Observe, describe and predict patterns in the movement of objects in the sky (the moon, stars, sun, etc.).

Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Building something that can send a signal (light or sound) over a distance.
- Investigating different musical instruments to see how sound is made.
- Mimicking external parts of a plant or animal to design a solution to a human problem such as designing clothing or equipment to protect bicyclists by mimicking turtle shells, acorn shells and animal scales.
- Observing leaves from the same kind of plant that are the same shape but can differ in size or observing a particular breed of dog that looks like its parents but is not exactly the same; and
- Observing the sky and recording patterns of the sun, moon and stars such as where they rise and set and when we see them.

How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Help your child explore the sounds made by everyday objects and instruments and ask them to identify the different sounds. (Examples of vibrating materials that make sound include a stretched rubber band and a plastic container with a lid.)
- Shine a flashlight onto different objects and discuss which objects allow the light to travel through them, which objects do not allow light to pass through them, and which objects bounce the light back.
- Observe how plants and animals use their external parts to meet their needs.
- Observe a mother animal with her young and discuss how she helps them to survive.
- Observe animals and their young and discuss how they are the same and different.
- Observe the location of the sun in the morning, at noon and in the evening for a week and discuss patterns you notice.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- Why do different materials make different sounds?
- How do we see objects in a room with light? What would happen if there was no light?
- How are adults and children similar and different?
- What do you notice when you look at the sky in the daytime? At night?
- How do objects in the sky seem to move?

Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- What can we do at home to encourage curiosity about the world?
- What are some experiments we can do at home to investigate sound and light?
- How do I explain to my child that the Earth is moving around the sun, even though it doesn't look that way?
- Where are some places in the community that we can explore to learn science?
- How often does my child have science?

GRADE 1 SOCIAL STUDIES

OVERVIEW:

In 1st grade, students will begin to understand how they can impact their community and state in a variety of ways, and how they are impacted by the communities in which they live. Your child will:

- Describe the purpose of Kentucky government and identify Kentucky leaders.
- Identify and describe what goods and services are produced in Kentucky and explain why those goods and services are traded with other communities;
- Describe how culture and experience influence the cultural landscape in the community and state; and
- Explore geographic relationships and make models and maps to show locations of familiar surroundings.

Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Asking questions about communities in Kentucky;
- Identifying the rights and responsibilities of Kentucky citizens;
- Comparing and contrasting life in Kentucky communities today to life in the past;
- Identifying the concept of goods and services and the role of financial institutions in order to save and invest; and
- Describing how and why people and goods move within the community.

How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Encourage your child to ask questions. When your child asks questions, rather than give answers immediately, suggest thinking about where the answer might be found.
- Read with your child every day. Choose social studies-related books, both fiction and nonfiction, at your local library.
- Visit or take online tours of Kentucky museums and cultural institutions. Based on what you see during the tour, compare life today to life in the past.
- Discuss why your family chooses to purchase goods and services from different stores in the community.
- Discuss how the cultural practices of your family might be the same or different from others in the community.
- Talk to your child about the importance of civic participation (voting, etc.), and locate examples in past and current events.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- Who are the leaders in Kentucky's government and what do they do?
- What are some problems at home or in your school or community? What ideas do you have to solve them?
- How do different jobs (for example, firefighter, doctor and mailman) help people in the community?
- How do the geographic features (such as mountains or bodies of water) of one community in Kentucky differ with another?

Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- What books and authors would support my child's learning?
- What games can help my child learn locations of places at home?
- What places can I visit with my child in the local community that may help her or him learn what is being taught in class?
- What resources are available to support learning about social studies skills?