

First Grade Overview

Mathematics

In first grade, students will (**independently**):

- add and subtract within 20 to solve word problems
- understand geometric shapes and their attributes
- organize, represent, and interpret data with up to three categories
- understand place value using two-digit numbers
- add within 100; subtract within 90
- count, read, and write numbers to 120
- measure length of objects
- tell and write time in hours and half hours

Language Arts

In first grade, students will (**independently**):

- engage in group reading activities with understanding.
- develop the foundational skills for literacy:
 - phonics and word recognition
 - fluency/oral reading accuracy
- develop an understanding of **literature** and **informational** text:
 - identify key ideas, details and main topic
 - use illustrations and details to describe characters and setting
 - compare and contrast adventures and experiences of characters in stories
 - describe major events in a story
 - retell a stories using key details
 - ask and answer questions
- write compositions for different text types and for different purposes
- develop conventions of standard English.
- develop vocabulary use
- orally interact with others

There are several Math and ELA standards that are foundational skills for other standards. These standards are weighed more heavily than others and will play an important role in the promotion and/or retention of your child.

HOW CAN I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARD TO HELP MY CHILD?

Standards-based report cards provide detailed information about how your child is doing in each subject. You will see whether students need extra assistance in certain areas or when they need to be challenged even more. By using these clearly defined standards, teachers and parents can work together to ensure that students succeed.

During parent-teacher conferences:

- ask to see daily work samples and assessments of your child's work, talk to his/her teacher about whether the work samples are satisfactory, or how your child could have done a better job on the assignments;
- ask to see proficient work; and
- ask about the resources available in each subject so that you can assist your child in reaching or surpassing their educational goals.

Report cards are designed to communicate with parents. They should be helpful and easy to understand. If you have questions or concerns about your school's report card or suggestions for making the report card easier to understand, please contact your child's teacher.

A Parent's Guide for the K-2 Standards-Based Report Card

First Grade

*You and I ...
We are*



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARDS

WHAT ARE THE LOUISIANA STUDENT STANDARDS?

The Louisiana Student Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that young people need for success in college and careers. Louisiana defines academic standards in seven subjects, including English language arts (reading and writing), math, science, social studies, physical education and health. This brochure will focus only on ELA and math.

HOW ARE STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARDS DIFFERENT FROM TRADITIONAL REPORT CARDS?

On many traditional report cards, students receive one grade for reading, one for math, one for science, and so on. On a standards-based report card, each of these subject areas is divided into a list of skills and knowledge that students are responsible for learning. Students receive a separate mark for each standard. The achievement marks indicate a child's progress toward meeting specific grade-level standards.

The grades on a **traditional** report card are based on an average across 9 weeks, so that grades in the early stages are counted equally as grades at the end of the 9 weeks. A **standards-based** report card reflects what the student is able to do at the end of the quarter (in other words, they are not penalized for lack of performance, rather assessed on progress of mastery over time).

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Academic standards define the knowledge and skills that students are expected to learn in a subject in each grade. Academic standards are designed to provide a clear path for students to gain the proficiency that is required to learn increasingly complex material in the next grade. Students who learn the knowledge and skills defined by the academic standards, year after year, are on track to graduate from high school on time and ready to enter college or the workforce.

HOW DOES THE STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARD INDICATE MY CHILD'S PROGRESS?

The report card will use three different performance codes to indicate a child's progress toward meeting the Louisiana State Standards in ELA and math. The table to the right offers a detailed explanation of what each performance code means. Student progress will be given a performance code for each subject during each semester. Additionally, standard codes will be given for each standard and are explained in the table to the right.

PERFORMANCE CODES

Based on progress toward meeting the grade-level standards

- S Satisfactory**
Demonstrates skill/concept development that meets grade-level standards
- N Needs Improvement**
Demonstrates skill/concept development that is significantly below grade-level standards-needs more time
- N+ Needs Met**
Demonstrates skill/concept development later in school year (example: if a report card indicator is marked as N at the end of the first reporting period and the student demonstrates satisfactory achievement of the indicator later in the school year, a plus (+) will be written next to the N)

OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE YEAR

- PASSED** Student meeting grade level standards
- FAILED** Student not meeting grade level standards