



North Dakota Academic Content Standards What Parents Need to Know

Parents are a child's first teacher; your involvement in your child's education opens opportunities for them for the future. It is important for parents to have a clear understanding of their child's learning expectations for the year. This guide outlines North Dakota's Academic Content Standards for 6th grade in English and Math.

6TH GRADE

What are the North Dakota Academic Standards?

The North Dakota Academic Standards, were analyzed, annotated, and approved by North Dakota teachers and community leaders, and are based on the Common Core State Standards. The North Dakota Academic Standards set clear and consistent expectations for students, parents, and teachers on the knowledge and skills our students will learn in school. If your child meets the expectations outlined in these standards by the end of the year, he or she will be well prepared for 7th grade.

Setting standards for what students should know at the end of each year is important because it helps ensure that when students are ready to

move to the next grade level or when they might be falling behind, allows schools and parents to help students catch up rather than give up. The North Dakota Academic Standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed.

In addition to setting academic goals, the North Dakota Academic Standards emphasize the ability to collaborate and communicate effectively. These skills will help your child gain the critical thinking and problem-solving skills that are valuable in life, both in relationships and in the workplace.

What is my child learning this year?

The following is a sample of what your child will be learning this year. Use this list with your child's teacher to set goals and identify when your child needs help or a greater challenge. You can also talk to your child's teacher about how you can supplement your child's learning at home.



English Language Arts & Literacy

- English Language Arts & Literacy
- Read closely (carefully) to find main ideas and supporting details in a variety of texts.
- Determine the correct meaning of a word based on the context in which it is used (e.g., the rest of the sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence).
- Analyze the key elements of a story, including setting, characters, and plot. Discuss the character's motivation and the progression of the plot.
- Review and paraphrase key ideas and multiple perspectives of a speaker.

Mathematics

- Understand ratios and rates, and solve problems involving proportional relationships (e.g., if it took 7 hours to mow 4 lawns, then at that rate, how many lawns could be mowed in 35 hours?)
- Understand the use of variables (an alphabetic character representing a number) in mathematical expressions and equations.
- Reason about relationships between shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume.
- Use positive and negative numbers together to describe quantities; understand the ordering and absolute values of positive and negative numbers.

Help Your Child Learn at Home

Have your child write a letter to the editor of a newspaper about an article or issue he feels passionate about. Ask him to clearly explain his position on the particular topic and make sure he uses credible evidence to support it.

Look for “word problems” in real life. Determining the average speed of a family trip, based on the distance traveled and the time taken; or estimating the time that a trip will take, given the distance and an estimate of the average speed

Have discussions with your child about the difference between credits and debits. This can be done using household bills, your child's allowance, or his own spending habits.

What resources are available to help my child?

Be A Learning Hero—Contains helpful tips for families and resources in math and English language arts that can be used at home to support students.

» www.bealearninghero.org/

Great Schools Videos—Watch grade-level and content-specific videos of learning in action.

» www.greatschools.org/gk/milestones

Scholastic Parent Page—Offers book recommendations, homework help, and more to make learning fun.

» www.scholastic.com/parents

Parent Toolkit – This toolkit will help you navigate your child's journey from pre-kindergarten through high school. It is designed to help you track and support progress at each stage

» www.parenttoolkit.com

North Dakota Academic Content Standards – North Dakota's Academic Content Standards are available in English and Math as well as other subject areas.

» www.nd.gov/dpi/students-parents/standards/