

**PREPARING FLORIDA'S CHILDREN
FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE**



All Florida students deserve to graduate high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, career and life. Over the last several years, Florida has made strong academic gains. We know today's workforce requires our graduates to have stronger critical thinking, problem solving and communications skills than ever before. Higher standards that challenge and motivate our students are essential.

To address this need, education leaders across the state of Florida improved our academic content standards, creating new expectations for what students need to know and be able to do. The Florida Standards are designed to ensure that **ALL** students reach their greatest potential.

Take a look at why the Florida Standards matter for students, educators, parents and families, and business and communities.

#FLStandards
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www.FLStandards.org

Parent’s Backpack Guide to the Florida Standards

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

Why Are the Florida Standards Important?

The Florida Standards are important because they will help all children – no matter who they are – learn the same skills. They create clear expectations for what your child should know and be able to do in key areas: **reading writing, speaking and listening, language and mathematics**. If you know what these expectations are, then you can work with the teacher and help your child prepare.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

The Florida Standards make several important changes to current standards. These changes are called shifts. The chart below shows what these shifts change, what you might see in your child’s backpack and what you can do to help your child. If your child’s assignments do not reflect the shifts, then talk to your child’s teacher.

| What’s Shifting? | What to Look for in the Backpack? | What Can You Do? |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will now read more non-fiction in each grade level. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for your child to have more reading assignments based on real-life events, such as biographies, articles and historical stories. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read non-fiction books with your children. Find ways to make reading fun and exciting. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading more non-fiction texts will help your child learn about the world through reading. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for your child to bring home more fact-based books about the world. For instance, your 1st Grader or Kindergartener might read Clyde Robert Bulla’s "A Tree is a Plant". This book lets students read and learn about science. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know what non-fiction books are grade-level appropriate and make sure your children have access to such books. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will read challenging texts very closely so they can make sense of what they read and draw their own conclusions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will have reading and writing assignments that might ask them to retell or write about key parts of a story or book. For example, your 2nd or 3rd grader might be asked to read aloud Faith D’Aluisio’s non-fiction book titled "What the World Eats" and retell facts from the story. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more challenging texts for your child to read. Show them how to dig deeper into difficult pieces. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When it comes to writing or retelling a story, your child will use "evidence" gathered from the text to support what they say. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for written assignments that ask your child to draw on concrete examples from the text that serve as evidence. Evidence means examples from the book that your child will use to support a response or conclusion. This is different from the opinion questions that have been used in the past. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask your child to provide evidence in everyday discussions and disagreements. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will learn how to write from what they read. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for writing assignments that ask your child to make arguments in writing using evidence. For 4th and 5th graders, this might mean reading and writing about "The Kid’s Guide to Money", a non-fictional book by Steve Otfinoski. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage writing at home. Write together using evidence and details. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will have an increased academic vocabulary. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for assignments that stretch your children’s vocabulary and teach them that "language is power." | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read often to babies, toddlers, preschoolers and children. |

MATHEMATICS

To improve student learning, the Florida Standards are different from previous standards. These changes are called shifts. The chart below shows what is shifting, what you might see in your child’s backpack and what you can do to help your child. Again, if your child’s assignments do not reflect the shifts, then talk to your child’s teacher.

| What’s Shifting? | What to Look for in the Backpack? | What Can You Do? |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will <u>work more deeply in fewer topics</u>, which will ensure full understanding. (Less is more!) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for assignments that require students to show their work and explain how they arrived at an answer. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know what concepts are important for your child based on their grade level and spend time working on those concepts. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will <u>keep building on learning year after year</u>, starting with a strong foundation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for assignments that build on one another. For example, students will focus on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Once these areas are mastered, they will focus on fractions. Building on that, they will then focus on Algebra. You should be able to see the progression in the topics they learn. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of what concepts your child struggled with last year and support your child in those challenge areas moving forward. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will <u>spend time practicing and memorizing math facts</u>. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for assignments that ask your child to master math facts such as addition groupings up to 20 or multiplication tables. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help your child know and memorize basic math facts. Ask your child to “do the math” that pops up in daily life. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will <u>understand math processes and be asked to talk about and prove their understanding</u>. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your children might have assignments that ask them to show or explain their mathematical thinking - to SAY why they think their answer is the right one. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk to your children about their math homework and ask them to teach you new concepts. Help them figure out ways to explain their thinking. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will now be asked to <u>use math in real-world situations</u>. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for math assignments that are based on the real world. For instance, homework for 5th graders might include adding fractions as part of a dessert recipe or determining how much pizza friends ate based on fractions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide time every day for your child to work on math at home. |

TALKING TO YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER

When talking to your child’s teacher, try to keep the conversation focused on the most important topics that relate to your child. This means asking the teacher how your child is performing based on grade-level standards and expectations.

Also, ask to see a sample of your child’s work. Compare your child’s samples to those that will be found soon at www.cpalms.org. Also, feel free to bring those samples to your child’s teacher and ask the teacher to explain how the samples are used in the classroom.

This information will enable you to make important adjustments at home that can help your child achieve success in the classroom.

For more information, please visit: www.FIStandards.org and contact your local principal or superintendent.

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE FLORIDA STANDARDS



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3. **Sign up for our email list.** Have the latest news about the Florida Standards sent to your inbox.
Email us at FLStandards@fldoe.org.
4. **Tell us your story.** How are the Florida Standards changing the way you prepare students for college, the workforce and life? Email us your story at FLStandards@fldoe.org so that we can share and support others along their journey.

————— Contact Us with Questions or Comments —————

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Visit this website for more information on the Florida Standards:

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FLORIDA STANDARDS
COLLEGE & CAREER READY

Developed by the Florida Department of Education