

PARENT GUIDE FOR GRADE 5 MATHEMATICS

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, careers and life. Over the last several years, Florida has made strong academic gains. But, 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—whatever their path may be.

Preparing your child for success begins in kindergarten and continues as your child moves up through each grade. This guide will support parents and families with children in **fifth grade** by helping you:

- **Learn** about the Florida Standards and why they matter for your child.
- **Talk** with your child's teachers about what he/she will be learning in the classroom.
- **Support** your child's learning in practical ways at home.

LEARN ABOUT THE STANDARDS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in fifth grade—along with some important additional skills. **Fifth grade** students are learning these types of lessons:

- Using parentheses, brackets or braces in numerical expressions, and evaluating expressions with the following symbols.

$$(3+a)-5=2$$

- Recognizing 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.

- Using place value, understanding to round decimals to any place.
- Measuring volumes by counting unit cubes, using cubic centimeter, cubic feet and improvised units.

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Every child develops at his/her own pace. The activities in this guide are recommended age-specific guidelines for growing young minds.



Download the complete Mathematics Florida Standards for Grade 5 at www.flstandards.org

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TALK WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



When you talk to your child's teacher, don't worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics for your child. In fifth grade, you may ask your child's teacher questions such as:

- How will my child be expected to show his/her work?
- What are some areas where my child is excelling? Where does my child need extra help?

If you are concerned that your child is struggling with math, don't postpone talking with his/her teacher. Open the conversation by asking if the teacher has observed any signs of confusion or frustration. Ask if your child has mastered addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of decimals and is competent adding and subtracting fractions.

Help your child engage in "productive struggle," or, in other words, keep going if a math task seems to take too long or be too hard. Encourage honest effort, praise him/her for persevering and share in the satisfaction of eventual success.

SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

You can encourage learning mathematics at home in ways that are fun for you and your child. Try these ideas after school, on weekends and during the summer:



Ask your child to keep track of his/her allowance over time—to keep a record of how money has been received, spent and/or how much has been saved for future use. Be sure your child is using decimals to denote dollars and cents.



When filling the gas tank, have your child observe how gallons of gas accumulate and correspond to cost in dollars and cents. Ask your child to use division and calculate the cost per gallon.



When shopping at the grocery store have your child hunt for the lowest unit prices for a product you're purchasing.



Search newspapers and magazines or the internet for charts, tables, graphs and especially "infographics" that contain numerical information. Discuss specific information with your child.



Investigate problem sets, games and brain teasers from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) at illuminations.nctm.org.



Find the locations of sites of interest on a road map or atlas using the coordinates from the map.

Talk to your child's teacher or principal to learn more great ideas to support learning at home.

Download the complete **Mathematics Florida Standards** and other resources for parents at www.flstandards.org

Questions? Contact JustforParents@fldoe.org