

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN

GRADE 4

Your Child's Progress

A parent resource for understanding what your child should learn and be able to do this year, and helpful suggestions for supporting your child's learning at home.



CONNECTICUT STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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We owe it to our kids to make sure that they receive an education that prepares them to thrive in a global economy and civic life. That's why Connecticut raised the bar and issued a new instructional roadmap that will prepare our kids for college and careers.

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Our new roadmap, the Connecticut Core Standards, sets learning expectations for what students should learn and be able to do at each grade level so that by the time they graduate from high school, they are ready to succeed in college and the workplace. Local teachers and educators still select and develop curriculum documents and lesson plans.

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New ruler for measuring student success

With these new learning expectations, Connecticut needs new ways to measure student progress. The Smarter Balanced assessments have replaced our old state test, the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), for Grades 3–8 in English language arts and math.

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With the new tests, students will receive new scores. **Results will be different.** In many cases, the scores will look lower on the Smarter Balanced tests than what many are used to seeing on the old state tests. This does not mean that students are learning less. Rather, it reflects that we set the bar higher.

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States that made the transition to college- and career-ready standards saw lower scores the first year, but they also saw improvements year-to-year. For example, in Kentucky the percentage of high school graduates ready for college and careers has increased from 38 percent to 62 percent in just four years.

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This means that, in the beginning, fewer Connecticut students may score at higher levels. But we expect our students will rise to meet the challenge, as they always do.

Real-world skills

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The Connecticut Core Standards focus on critical thinking and problem-solving—the skills students need to be successful in college and careers. The Smarter Balanced assessments are administered on computers and are designed to measure these skills through reading comprehension, writing, and math questions that require students to demonstrate that they truly understand the content—not just fill in a bubble.

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Smarter Balanced will help parents and teachers better understand how the student is progressing, revealing where the student is excelling and where the student needs extra help.



What Your Child Learned in **Grade 3**

Mathematics

- Engaging in activities that involve finding an unknown product (multiplication) and finding an unknown factor (division) to develop an understanding of multiplication and division of whole numbers.
- Knowing the single-digit multiplication and division facts up to 100.
- Developing strategies for solving multiplication and division problems with whole numbers up to 100.
- Developing an understanding of fractions, especially unit fractions (fractions with a numerator or top number of 1). Using fractions to represent numbers equal to, less than, and greater than 1, especially on a number line.
- Describing, analyzing and comparing the angles and number of sides of two-dimensional shapes.
- Understanding the concept of the area of a shape and relate area to multiplication by finding the number of same size units required to cover the shape without gaps or overlaps.

English Language Arts

- Reading closely and carefully to find main ideas and supporting details in a story.
- Comparing important points and details in two texts on the same topic.
- Comparing ideas, characters, events, and settings in stories and myths.
- Asking and answering questions about what they read by referring directly to parts of the text.
- Reading stories and poems aloud fluently, without pausing to figure out what each word means.
- Planning, revising and editing writing using resources and supports from peers and teachers.
- Writing stories with dialogue and descriptions of characters' actions, thoughts, and feelings.
- Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about various topics.
- Gathering information from books, articles, and online sources to build understanding of a topic.
- Participating in discussions by listening, asking questions, sharing ideas, and building on the ideas of others.

Please note: Text is printed materials (books, newspapers, magazines) as well as graphics, drawings, and multimedia such as audio or visual recordings.

What Your Child Will Learn in **Grade 4**

Mathematics

- Adding and subtracting whole numbers within 1,000,000 quickly and accurately.
- Developing an understanding of and building fluency with multidigit multiplication and division (Example: $36 \times 15 = 30 \times 15 + 6 \times 15$; and $20 \times 15 + 10 \times 15 + 6 \times 15 = 36 \times 15$).
- Solving multistep problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and explaining why the answer makes sense.
- Adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator (Example: $5/8 = 1/8 + 1/8 + 1/8 + 1/8 + 1/8$).
- Extending the understanding of fractions by comparing the size of two fractions with different numerators (top numbers) and different denominators (bottom numbers).
- Developing an understanding of equivalent fractions by using pictures, number lines and fraction models (Example: $1/2$ is the same as $3/6$ and the same as $5/10$).
- Converting fractions with denominators of 10 or 100 into decimals, and locating decimals on a number line.
- Connecting addition and subtraction of whole numbers to multiplying fractions by whole numbers.

English Language Arts

- Identifying the purpose of a story, drama, or poem.
- Identifying the main idea of a historical, scientific, or technical text.
- Summarizing the main topic of a text using the key supporting details.
- Comparing characters, events, settings, theme or point of view in stories and myths.
- Explaining how an author uses facts, details, and evidence to support their points.
- Writing on a topic using facts, details, definitions, quotations, or other information.
- Writing a story with an event sequence that unfolds naturally, using dialogue, description and sensory details, and providing a conclusion.
- Writing complete sentences with correct capitalization and spelling.
- Conducting short research projects using evidence from books and other sources.
- Participating in discussions by listening, asking questions, sharing ideas, and building on the ideas of others.

Please note: Text is printed materials (books, newspapers, magazines) as well as graphics, drawings, and multimedia such as audio or visual recordings.

How You Can Help Your Child

Mathematics

- Encourage your child to use what is already known to find answers for new problems (Example: $4,500 - 399 = ?$ Think: $4,000 + (500 - 399) = 4,000 + 101 = 4,101$).
- Ask your child to explain what she or he is doing when working on a problem. Be patient with unfamiliar methods because they might be helpful to support your child's understanding of mathematics.
- Encourage your child to stick with a problem that may seem difficult at first; working on different ways to solve a problem can be helpful.
- Play math games with your child and ask for explanations of his or her strategies and solutions.
- Use everyday activities such as cooking and measuring to show your child how fractions are used.

English Language Arts

- Use technology to read fiction and non-fiction books and stories. Many online books for children have interactive features and are available from your local library.
- Ask questions that require your child to use details from the book.
- Encourage your child to use print or online materials such as a dictionary, thesaurus, or glossary to find the meaning of unknown words or phrases and to look for word meaning within the text.
- Read aloud with your child. Become a character from a story and read aloud from the text with expression.
- Read or watch different versions of a traditional story such as Little Red Riding Hood or Cinderella and compare the events, characters, purpose and points of view. Discuss the effect the changes have on the story.
- Talk about the daily news. Pick one news event to read, and then watch a news clip on the same topic. Compare the facts, details, and points of view of the news story.
- Provide your child with exposure to typing on a keyboard (using a home or library computer).
- Play hot potato with synonyms and antonyms. Choose a word, and then have your child think of another word that means the same thing. Take turns until someone is stumped. For example, you may say, "Hot," and your child might say, "Boiling." Then you could say, "Scorching," and so on. Try the game again with antonyms.

Resources

Mathematics

Khan Academy

This site provides an extensive library of user-friendly content for K–12 mathematics. Students can practice at their own pace and make use of interactive challenges and videos from any computer with access to the Internet.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/commoncore>

KAKOOMA and Other Games

This site includes free games that provide a great way for students to build fluency while engaging in thinking and reasoning. There are games for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing with integers or with fractions. Students must choose the level of difficulty and the number of digits they will use in the game. The app is available for Android or iOS, and includes a timer so that players compete against their own time. <http://gregtangmath.com/>

English Language Arts

Reading Rockets

This site offers many resources and activities that can help your child become an engaged reader, including literacy adventure packs, themed booklists, author interviews, nonfiction resources, summer reading suggestions and more.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents>

Scholastic Book Wizard

Are you looking for just the right book for your child? Scholastic Book Wizard offers ready-made book lists, book talks, author studies, and videos, as well as a way to search for books according to reading level or similar to your child's favorites. <http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/>



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