CONNECTICUT
Education

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN GRADE 6

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.

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 is why Connecticut raised the bar and issued an instructional roadmap that will prepare our kids for college and careers.

Our 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. These standards help set clear and consistent expectations for everyone involved in your child's learning.

A ruler for measuring student success

The Smarter Balanced assessments measure student progress based on the standards, or learning expectations, for Grades 3-8 in English language arts and mathematics. The scores can be used as a ruler to measure the skills your child acquired throughout the school year. The tests provide information about achievement in the current grade and growth from one grade to the next.

Building a bridge between school and home

At home, you can play an important role in setting high expectations and supporting your child in meeting them. If your child needs a little extra help or wants to learn more about a subject, work with his or her teacher to identify tutoring opportunities, to get involved in clubs after school, or to find other resources. Talk to your child's teacher regularly about how your child is doing beyond the parent-teacher conferences. By building a connection between home and school, you can greatly improve the impact of your child's learning.

What Your Child Learned in Grade 5

Mathematics

- Multiplying multidigit whole numbers quickly and accurately.
- Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators (bottom numbers) by converting them to equivalent fractions with the same denominator (Example: 2/3 − 1/2 = 4/6 − 3/6 = 1/6).
- Measuring volume using what is known about multiplication and addition and explaining why the measurement makes sense.
- Dividing up to four-digit whole numbers by two-digit divisors (Example: 6,132 ÷ 14 = 438; use compatible numbers and think: 5600 + 420 + 112 ÷ 14 = 400 + 30 + 8).
- Using models and story contexts to multiply and divide unit fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by unit fractions. Multiply fractions by fractions (Examples: 2400 ÷ 1/4 = 9600; 3/5 × 3/4 = 9/20).
- Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals to the hundredths place (Example: 0.7 + 1.25 = 1.95).

English Language Arts

- Summarizing the key details of stories, dramas, poems, and nonfiction materials, including their themes or main ideas.
- Identifying how an author is using evidence to explain or support a topic.
- Giving in-depth descriptions of characters, settings, and events in a story.
- Explaining the relationship or interaction between two or more individuals, events, or ideas based on specific information in one or more texts.
- Writing opinions that offer reasoned arguments and providing facts and details that are logically grouped.
- Writing narratives that develop the plot with dialogue, description, and effective pacing.
- Strengthening writing by planning, revising, editing, or rewriting.
- Using technology to produce and publish writing.
- Conducting short research projects in which a topic is investigated using several 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.

What Your Child Will Learn in Grade 6

Mathematics

- Using reasoning of multiplication and division to solve problems about quantities, including such things as percent, cost per gallon, and comparison of boys to girls in a class.
- Learning how to divide fractions and using negative numbers.
- Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing multidigit decimals, and dividing multidigit whole numbers quickly and accurately.
- Writing expressions (mathematics statements) with numbers and variables (letters).
- Evaluating expressions (relationships using numbers and letters with no equal sign) by replacing the variables with numbers and using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to calculate the value.
- Understanding when two expressions are the same.
- Writing equations (relationship using numbers and letters with an equal sign) to model real world problems and solving equations such as 10 + x = 15 to find the value of x to make the equation true.
- Learning about mean (average) and median (middle) to develop an understanding of how data sets can be summarized and what the difference in these values say about the data.
- Solving real-world and mathematical problems involving area (space inside) and volume (how much something holds).

English Language Arts

- Providing detailed summaries of texts.
- Comparing and contrasting various texts, including poems, stories, and historical novels.
- Describing how a particular story or drama's plot unfolds and how characters respond to the plot development.
- Citing evidence to explain what a story, play, poem, or informational text says, and what clues can be used to make inferences.
- Identifying and evaluating specific claims and arguments in a text.
- Supporting written claims or arguments with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- Producing writing that is appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.
- Conducting short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources.
- Gathering information from print and digital sources and assessing the credibility of each source.
- Participating in class discussions about various texts and topics in which the student is prepared to refer to evidence in a text when discussing ideas, restating other people's ideas, and understanding other perspectives.

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.
- Reinforce mathematics by sharing your thinking as you work through real problems, especially if it takes some time and effort to find a solution.
- Share how fractions and decimals are used during cooking, carpentry, and financial calculations.
- Encourage your child to stick with a problem that may seem difficult at first.
- Show your child unit rates while shopping.

English Language Arts

- Ask your child to read their own writing out loud. Children can discuss word choices, ideas, and reasons why they wrote about a topic.
- Discuss current events. Children can share their opinions on the issues. Prompt them to back up their claims with evidence from reliable resources.
- Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading. Read books, magazines, newspapers, or blogs online. Have your child write a summary on the computer, share it with an adult, and use the computer to edit.
- Attend a play with your child. Discuss the actors' expressions and how the characters are brought to life.
- Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend an opinion. If your child wants to purchase a new item, have him or her conduct research and explain why purchasing that particular brand is the best option. The explanation must be supported with facts and details.
- Encourage your child to write. Create an event flyer or a letter of complaint about a product that no longer works and is still under warranty. Children need to see writing as a real-world experience and not just as a school activity.
- Play games with the family that use reading. There are many word and vocabulary-building games. Just think of the great reading opportunity provided by the instructions!

Resources

Mathematics

Khan Academy

The Khan Academy website provides an extensive library of user-friendly content for K–12 mathematics. Students can practice at their own pace and use interactive challenges and videos from any computer with Internet access.

Be A Learning Hero

The Be A Learning Hero website supports families in guiding their children's learning by providing resources, tools, and tips aligned to grade-level expectations. It helps parents understand their child's progress in math and offers activities to build skills at home.

IXL

The IXL website offers comprehensive, standards-aligned practice in mathematics. Students receive personalized recommendations, immediate feedback, and interactive questions that adapt to their skill level.

Math Playground

The Math Playground website provides a variety of engaging math games, puzzles, and problem-solving activities for students. It encourages critical thinking and helps students build fluency through play and practice.

English Language Arts

NEWSELA

The NEWSELA website provides students with high-interest nonfiction articles that are updated daily. Each article offers a choice of five different reading levels by Lexile, making it just right for each child.

AdLit:

The AdLit website supports adolescent literacy with resources for both parents and educators.

¡Colorín Colorado!

The ¡Colorín Colorado! website is a national multimedia project that offers a wealth of bilingual, research-based information, activities, and advice for educators and families of English learners/multilingual learners.

National PTA Parent Toolkit

The PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children, they offer the National PTA Parent Toolkit website.