



# **PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN GRADE 7**

## **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 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.*

# What Your Child Will Learn in Grade 7

## Mathematics

- Applying what is known about rates (such as miles per hour) and ratios (relationships between two numbers) to determine whether two quantities are in a proportional relationship (have equivalent rates or ratios).
- Using proportionality to solve a variety of percent problems, including those involving discounts, interest, taxes, and tips.
- Graphing proportional relationships and understanding the unit rate (amount per 1) informally as a measure of the slope (steepness) of the related line.
- Solving multistep word problems by adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing positive and negative rational numbers in any form (whole numbers, fractions, or decimals).
- Solving real world problems that can be modeled with an inequality such as  $x > 8$  or an equation such as  $\frac{1}{4}(x + 5) = 21$  by answering the question: "What number does  $x$  have to be to make this statement true?"
- Solving real-world and mathematical problems involving the area (space inside) and circumference (distance around) of a circle, the area of two-dimensional objects such as triangles, and the volume (capacity inside) and surface area (total of all outside space) of three-dimensional objects such as boxes.
- Using and evaluating probability for single (picking a 4 from a deck of cards) and compound events (picking a 5 and then a 2 from a deck of cards).

## English Language Arts

- Citing several pieces of evidence when analyzing a text.
- Comparing and contrasting a written story, drama, or poem to an audio, filmed, or staged version.
- Identifying and evaluating specific claims and arguments in a text.
- Comparing and contrasting various texts, including poems, stories, and historical novels.
- Determining how an author's word choices affect the meaning and tone of a text.
- Producing writing that is appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.
- Using technology to produce and publish writing that links to sources.
- Conducting short research projects to answer a question, drawing information from several reliable sources.
- Including multimedia and visuals in presentations to help support their findings.
- 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.

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# How You Can Help Your Child

## Mathematics

- Communicate with your child and their teachers about successes and challenges in mathematics class.
- Reinforce mathematics by sharing your thinking as you work through real problems, especially if it takes some time and effort to find a solution.
- Encourage your child to stick with a problem that may seem difficult at first.
- Show how fractions, decimals and percentages are used during cooking, carpentry, discounts, and financial calculations.
- Encourage your child to explain how to solve problems involving negative numbers in everyday contexts, such as amounts owed or temperatures below zero.
- Use dice, cards, or coins to test probabilities.

## English Language Arts

- Encourage your child to read a self-selected text for at least 20 minutes each day.
- Talk about the daily news. Pick a news event in a newspaper or online to read and then watch a news clip on the same topic. Compare the facts, details, and points of view of the news story.
- Visit museums or historical sites to increase exposure to new knowledge and vocabulary.
- Urge your child to research a place to which he or she would like to travel. Collect and read brochures and informational materials on that location.
- Prompt writing in various forms. Your child can hand-write a card, send an e-mail to friends or relatives, keep a journal, or write a blog.
- Encourage discussion as much as possible. Ask your child for his or her opinion on books, movies, music, or social issues. Prompt your child to express ideas thoughtfully and to back up claims with evidence.
- Listen to audiobooks in the car. Audiobooks can be found at the public library. Driving in the car is a great time to listen to the book or have a brief discussion about a novel.

# 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.

## 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.

### jColorín Colorado!

The [jColorín 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](#).