



Louisiana STUDENT STANDARDS PARENT GUIDE

This guide provides you, as a parent, with a quick overview of the Louisiana Student Standards, what you can expect to see in your child's classroom this year, and what resources are available to support you in helping your child at home.

WHAT ARE *Educational Standards?* WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

- ➔ Set clear and consistent learning expectations for students and teachers
- ➔ Define what students should know and be able to do in a particular subject at each grade level
- ➔ Help set high goals for all students

STANDARDS ensure that all students, regardless of their address, background, or ability, have a clear roadmap to success in college or a career. Clearly defined goals help families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed, have access to extra assistance when they need it, and are challenged appropriately.

HOW ARE LOUISIANA'S STUDENT STANDARDS DEVELOPED?

During the 2015-2016 school year, Louisiana underwent a review of its standards for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

- **OVER 100 LOUISIANA EDUCATORS**, as well as representatives from Louisiana universities, business and industry, and parent groups, participated.
- Committee members spent **OVER 9,000 HOURS AT WORK** on the process.
- The new standards were adopted by the committees, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), and the legislature for implementation in the 2016-2017 school year.
- Louisiana will undergo a similar review and update of its science standards during the 2016-2017 school year.

WHAT WILL *Teachers and Students* SEE IN THE *classroom* this year AS A RESULT OF THE NEW STANDARDS?

STUDENT LEARNING

- ✔ Develop deep understanding, skill, and fluency in math
- ✔ Think critically in math through speaking, writing, and solving problems
- ✔ Apply math to real-world problems and tasks
- ✔ Build knowledge, discuss, and write about topics, themes, and ideas in complex texts
- ✔ Support thoughts and opinions about complex texts using evidence

ASSESSMENTS

- ✔ Students in grades 5 through 8 will take the LEAP tests for ELA, math, and social studies online.
- ✔ Students in grades 3 and 4 will have the option to take the LEAP tests in ELA, math, and social studies online or on paper.
- ✔ The LEAP science test will be given only on paper for all grades.
- ✔ The LEAP social studies tests will be new this year and will require students to use source documents (an excerpt from a historical document, map, timeline, etc.), along with their social studies knowledge, to answer questions about a topic.

HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT *Student Learning at Home?*

Learning should not end in the classroom. At home, you can play an important role in setting high expectations for learning and supporting your child. Building this understanding of what your child knows and should be able to do begins with meaningful conversations with your child and your child's teacher. By taking these small steps, you will be helping your child become successful both in and outside the classroom.

STUDENT CONVERSATIONS

Take the time each week to talk with your child about what he or she is learning.

ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS:

What are you learning in _____ class?

Do you understand what you are learning?

Do you want to learn more about a subject or topic that you are doing really well in?

Is there anything in this subject or class that you don't understand and feel you need more help with?



TEACHER CONVERSATIONS

If your child needs a little extra help or wants to learn more about a subject, work with his or her teacher to identify opportunities for tutoring, to get involved in clubs after school, or to find other resources. When talking to your child's teacher, ask to see samples of your child's work and test results.

ASK THE TEACHER QUESTIONS:

Can you show me a sample of my child's work or classroom test results?

Is this work on pace with where my child should be at this point in the year?

If so, what can we do to challenge my child to move to the next level?

If not, what can we do to help my child improve?

Tools and Resources

TO SUPPORT PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Below are additional resources that you can access to further support your child's learning at home.

LOUISIANA'S FAMILY SUPPORT TOOLBOX LIBRARY:

information on standards, test results, and other assessment resources

<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/family-support-toolbox-library>

LOUISIANA STUDENT STANDARDS LIBRARY:

<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/academic-standards>

GREAT KIDS MILESTONES:

free, online collection of videos showing what success looks like in reading, writing, and math in grades K-12

<http://www.greatschools.org/gk/milestones/>

"BE A LEARNING HERO" LEARNING TOOLS:

learning activities in math and English to use at home with your child

<http://bealearninghero.org/learning-tools>

For more information on the standards, or how you can support your child's learning at home, contact the Department at louisianastandards@la.gov.