



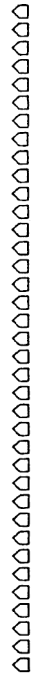
Academic Essentials

First Steps to Proficiency

A Guide for Parents

Reading/Language Arts & Mathematics Standards

Kindergarten



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The Rialto Unified School District has adopted reading/language arts and mathematics skills, called standards, that a student in Kindergarten is to learn.

At some grades learning standards determine whether the student is promoted to the next grade (Board Policy 5123). Some of these standards are more important than others and are, therefore, critical or essential for success next year in grade 1. Mastery of essential standards is a top educational objective for all students. Yet, learning the essential standards is not enough for the student to be considered "grade level proficient."

"First Steps" for Kindergarten is designed to focus home study and extra school support in critical skill areas and to provide a common reference for parents and teachers in their dialogue about fundamental student achievement.

Highlights: Retention Policy 5123

- Students shall be considered for retention at the end of grades 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8.
- Decisions regarding retention will be determined based on academic performance in the following subject areas:

Grades 2, 3 - Reading
 Grades 4, 5, 8 - Reading, English/Language Arts, Mathematics

- Report card "grades," results of State testing, and assessments measuring the learning of grade level academic standards are extremely important in determining promotion to the next grade.
- Supplemental instruction for students "at-risk" of being retained shall be provided.
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be notified at each reporting period if their student is in danger of being retained and in need of extra assistance (at home and at school).

If your child is not proficient in grade level skills, ask your school principal or teacher about extra assistance available.

Parent - School Partnership

Working together **we** can **help your child learn** the necessary academic, social and work skills to progress successfully through the grades.

To facilitate this effort watch for several "innovations" to be implemented this year.

- A standards-based curriculum that clearly defines skills, knowledge and abilities students will be taught at each grade level.
- Homework packets to assist parents in helping their children learn the standards, especially the essential standards identified in this flyer.
- A new report card and student records designed to better inform parent(s)/guardian(s) about their child's learning of the grade level standards.
- An enhanced Parent-Teacher Conference format focusing on grade level skills.
- Supplemental instructional programs after school, on Saturdays, and/or during intersessions for students needing extra help.
- Teacher and parent training programs focused on strategies to improve student achievement.

Reading, Language Arts - Grade K	
Content Area	Standards
Reading	Identifies front cover, back cover, title page of book
	Follows words from left-to-right, top-to-bottom on printed page
	Explains that printed materials provide information
	Distinguishes letters from words
	Recognizes/names all upper/lower case letters
	Matches all consonant/short-vowel sounds to letters
	Reads simple one-syllable, high frequency words
	Describes common objects/events with general language
	Describes common objects/events with specific language
	Uses pictures/context to make predictions about story content
	Retells familiar stories
Writing	Uses letters/phonetically-spelled words to write about experiences, people, objects, events
	Writes by moving from left-to-right/top-to-bottom
English Language	Recognizes/uses complete sentences when speaking, sharing information ideas
	Recognizes/uses coherent sentences when speaking (S/L)
	Spells independently using pre-to-early-phonetic knowledge
	Spells independently using knowledge of letter names
Speaking/Listening (S/L)	Understands/follows one and two-step oral directions
	# of Academic Essential Standards - (20 Total)

Mathematics - Grade K	
Content Area	Standards
Number Sense	Compares two or more sets (up to 10 objects in each group), and identifies which set is equal to, more than, or less than the other
	Counts, recognizes, represents, names and orders numbers to 30 using objects
	Knows that larger numbers describe sets with more objects than small numbers
	Uses concrete objects to solve +, - problems for two numbers less than 10
	Recognizes when an estimation is reasonable
Algebra/Functions	Identifies, sorts, classifies objects by attribute; identifies objects that do not belong to a group
Measurement/Geometry	Understands concepts of time (morning, afternoon, evening, day, yesterday, tomorrow, week, year) including measures of time (clock, calendar)
	Names days of the week
	Identifies/describes/compares circle, triangle, square, rectangle, cube, sphere, cone
	Compares length, weight and capacity of objects by making direct comparisons or using reference objects (example: shorter/longer/taller, lighter/heavier, which holds more?)
Statistics/Data Analysis	Identifies/describes/extends simple patterns involving shape, size, color
	Uses manipulatives or sketches to model problems
	# of Academic Essential Standards - (12 Total)