

PARENT GUIDE FOR GRADE 5 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Preparing Florida's Children for a Successful Future



All Florida students deserve to graduate high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, careers and life. Over the last several years, Florida has made strong academic gains. But, we know today's workforce requires our graduates to have stronger critical thinking, problem solving and communications skills than ever before. Higher standards that challenge and motivate our students are essential.

To address this need, education leaders across the state of Florida improved our academic content standards, creating new expectations for what students need to know and be able to do. The Florida Standards are designed to ensure that **ALL** students reach their greatest potential—whatever their path may be.

Preparing your child for success begins in kindergarten and continues as your child moves up through each grade. This guide will support parents and families with children in **fifth grade** by helping you:

- **Learn** about the Florida Standards and why they matter for your child.
- **Talk** with your child's teachers about what he/she will be learning in the classroom.
- **Support** your child's learning in practical ways at home.

LEARN ABOUT THE STANDARDS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in fifth grade—along with some important additional skills. **Fifth grade** students are learning these types of lessons:

- Comparing and contrasting two or more characters, settings or events in a story, drawing on specific details in the text. 
- Analyzing how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone or beauty of a text. 
- Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose and audience. 
- Engaging in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on fifth grade topics and text. 

Every child develops at his/her own pace. The activities in this guide are recommended age-specific guidelines for growing young minds.

Download the complete English Language Arts Florida Standards for Grade 5 at www.flstandards.org

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TALK WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



Remember, you are your child's first and will always be his/her most important teacher. Think about a conference as a "team meeting" in which you will discover the special contributions each of you can bring to your fifth grader's success.

Ask the teacher for examples of reading materials that could support learning. Together, look at an example of something your child has written. Ask the teacher what this work tells him/her about your child's start on the journey to becoming a confident reader and communicator.

SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

You can encourage learning English language arts at home in ways that are fun for you and your child. Try these ideas after school, on weekends and during the summer:



Encourage your child to use the book trailers to select a first, second and third choice to read. Ask him/her to tell you why and how each video made a book sound interesting. Go to the library to check out and read those top choices.



Call your child's attention to symbols that represent Florida. Talk about what ideas are represented by the colors and objects in the state seal and what he/she thinks about why these were selected.



Have your child keep a journal over summer vacation, while you do the same. Periodically read part of your journals to each other.



Listen to an in-depth television news report on a topic that concerns your family.



Develop a question and carry out a poll among family, friends, neighbors and classmates and then organize and present the results.



Be frequent visitors to your local public library. Let him/her see you choosing, checking out and enjoying books.



Start a family book club.



Ask your child to help prepare meals that include reading directions and following them.



Provide opportunities for your child to produce written products, both in cursive handwriting and electronically.

Talk to your child's teacher or principal to learn more great ideas to support learning at home.

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Questions? Contact JustforParents@fldoe.org