

## PARENT GUIDE FOR GRADE 4 MATHEMATICS

### 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 **fourth 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 fourth grade—along with some important additional skills. **Fourth grade** students are learning these types of lessons:

- Determining whether an equation is true or false by using comparative relational thinking. For example, without adding 60 and 24, determine whether the equation  $60 + 24 = 57 + 27$  is true or false.
- Fluently adding and subtracting multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm.
- Applying and extending previous understanding of multiplication to multiply a fraction by a whole number.
- Using decimal notation for fractions with denominators of 10 or 100. For example, rewrite 0.62 as  $\frac{62}{100}$ ; describe a length as 0.62 meters; locate 0.62 on a number line diagram.
- Applying the area and perimeter formulas for rectangles in real world and mathematical problems. For example, find the width of a rectangular room, given the area of the flooring and the length, by viewing the area formula as a multiplication equation with an unknown factor.



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 Mathematics Florida Standards for Grade 4 at [www.flstandards.org](http://www.flstandards.org)

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## TALK WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



When you talk to your child's teacher, don't worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics for your child. In fourth grade, you may ask your child's teacher questions such as:

- How will my child be expected to show his/her work?
- What are some areas where my child is excelling? Where does my child need extra help?

If you are concerned that your child is struggling with math, don't postpone talking with his/her teacher. Open the conversation by asking if the teacher has observed any signs of confusion or frustration. Ask if your child has mastered addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers.

Help your child engage in "productive struggle," or, in other words, keep going if a math task seems to take too long or be too hard. Encourage honest effort, praise him/her for persevering and share in the satisfaction of eventual success.

## SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

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



Ask your child to "teach" you what he/she has been learning in math.



Have your child write down the time he/she begins and finishes a chore or an activity. Then ask them to calculate how much time it took to complete the chore or activity.



Search newspapers and magazines or the internet for charts, tables, graphs and especially "infographics" that contain numerical information. Discuss specific information with your child. Pose questions that require your child to interpret the information and respond by performing addition, subtraction, multiplication and division calculations.



If you download apps for your child to play, be careful to choose only those with actual educational value, such as Common Sense Media ([www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)).



Add a protractor to your child's study tools. Spend some with your child experimenting with drawings and measuring using the protractor.

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

**Download the complete Mathematics Florida Standards and other resources for parents at [www.flstandards.org](http://www.flstandards.org)**

Questions? Contact [JustforParents@fldoe.org](mailto:JustforParents@fldoe.org)