



North Dakota Academic Content Standards What Parents Need to Know

Parents are a child's first teacher; your involvement in your child's education opens opportunities for them for the future. It is important for parents to have a clear understanding of their child's learning expectations for the year. This guide outlines North Dakota's Academic Content Standards for 8th grade in English and Math.

8TH GRADE

What are the North Dakota Academic Standards?

The North Dakota Academic Standards, were analyzed, annotated, and approved by North Dakota teachers and community leaders, and are based on the Common Core State Standards. The North Dakota Academic Standards set clear and consistent expectations for students, parents, and teachers on the knowledge and skills our students will learn in school. If your child meets the expectations outlined in these standards by the end of the year, he or she will be well prepared for high school.

Setting standards for what students should know at the end of each year is important because it helps ensure that when students are ready to

move to the next grade level or when they might be falling behind, allows schools and parents to help students catch up rather than give up. The North Dakota Academic Standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed.

In addition to setting academic goals, the North Dakota Academic Standards emphasize the ability to collaborate and communicate effectively. These skills will help your child gain the critical thinking and problem-solving skills that are valuable in life, both in relationships and in the workplace.

What is my child learning this year?

The following is a sample of what your child will be learning this year. Use this list with your child's teacher to set goals and identify when your child needs help or a greater challenge. You can also talk to your child's teacher about how you can supplement your child's learning at home.



English Language Arts & Literacy

- Cite the evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what is explicitly stated and/or implied from a book, article, poem, or play.
- Interpret figures of speech (e.g., irony, puns) and develop a large vocabulary of general academic words and phrases.
- Compare and contrast the structure (organization) of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structures contribute to the meaning.
- Present findings and claims to others, emphasize key points with relevant evidence and sound reasoning, adapt speech to the audience and the formality of the setting, and respond to questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas.

Mathematics

- Understand slope, and relate linear equations in two variables to lines in the coordinate plane.
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem ($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$).
- Analyze statistical relationships by using a best-fit line (a straight line that models an association between two quantities).
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres. Solving problems involving scale drawings.

Help Your Child Learn at Home

Have your child write out the lyrics to his favorite song. Ask him to look up the definition of any unfamiliar words and encourage him to incorporate the new words into his vocabulary.

Practice measuring the perimeter of common household items like picture frames and practice estimating the area of various rooms in your home.

Visit the campus of a local college with your teen. Begin talking about college early. What does he or she expect from college? What high school courses will your child need to pass to prepare for college?

What resources are available to help my child?

Be A Learning Hero—Contains helpful tips for families and resources in math and English language arts that can be used at home to support students.

» www.bealearninghero.org/

Great Schools Videos: Watch grade-level and content-specific videos of learning in action.

» www.greatschools.org/gk/milestones

Scholastic Parent Page—Offers book recommendations, homework help, and more to make learning fun.

» www.scholastic.com/parents

Parent Toolkit – This toolkit will help you navigate your child's journey from pre-kindergarten through high school. It is designed to help you track and support progress at each stage

» www.parenttoolkit.com

North Dakota Academic Content Standards – North Dakota's Academic Content Standards are available in English and Math as well as other subject areas.

» www.nd.gov/dpi/students-parents/standards/