

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 5th grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 6th grade.

### **Why Are Academic Standards Important?**

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. 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. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.



### **A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 5th Grade**

- Summarizing the key details of stories, dramas, poems, and nonfiction materials, including their themes or main ideas
- Identifying and judging evidence that supports particular ideas in an author's argument to change a reader's point of view
- Integrating information from several print and digital sources to answer questions and solve problems





## A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 5th Grade

Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators (e.g.,  $2\frac{1}{4} - 1\frac{1}{3}$ ), and solving word problems of this kind

Multiplying fractions; dividing fractions in simple cases; and solving related word problems (e.g., finding the area of a rectangle with fractional side lengths; determining how many  $\frac{1}{3}$ -cup servings are in 2 cups of raisins; determining the size of a share if 9 people share a 50-pound sack of rice equally or if 3 people share  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of chocolate equally)

Generalizing the place-value system to include decimals, and calculating with decimals to the hundredths place (two places after the decimal)

Multiplying whole numbers quickly and accurately, for example  $1,638 \times 753$ , and dividing whole numbers in simple cases, such as dividing 6,971 by 63

Understanding the concept of volume, and solving word problems that involve volume

Graphing points in the coordinate plane (two dimensions) to solve problems

Analyzing mathematical patterns and relationships

### TALKING TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time *every day* when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

### English Language Arts & Literacy

Invite your child to read his or her writing out loud to other family members. Ask questions about your child's word choices and ideas.

Go to a play or musical with your child. Discuss the way the actors bring the words to life.

Discuss your family stories and history. Encourage your child to ask relatives questions about their lives. Put the information together in an album or brainstorm different ways to tell family tales, such as poems or short stories.

### Mathematics

Look for "word problems" in real life. Some 5th grade examples might include:

- Doing arithmetic with decimals, for example when balancing a checkbook.
- Multiplying with fractions