



Fourth Grade Student Profile

WHY ARE THERE LEARNING STANDARDS FOR OUR CHILDREN?

Every day our world becomes more complex and demanding. To succeed beyond high school, students must be better prepared than at any time in the history of our state. Our expectations for our students and our schools are higher than they have ever been.

To meet these expectations, the State Board of Education has adopted a curriculum for all Texas schools - the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These learning standards will help ensure that all students meet the challenges ahead of us as we move into the next century:

- Each student must become a more effective reader.
- Each student will have to know and apply more complex mathematics
- Each student needs to develop a stronger understanding of science concepts, especially in biology, chemistry, and physics.
- Each student must master social studies skills and content necessary to be a responsible adult citizen.
- Each student must master a wider range of technology.

The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills identify what Texas students should know and be able to do at every grade and in every course in the foundation and enrichment areas at they move successfully through our public schools.

The enclosed information summarizes the TEKS at your child's grade level in the four foundation areas of English Language Arts and Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

If you would like to see all of the TEKS that your child will learn, ask a teacher or principal to show you a copy; or order the TEKS from the Texas Education Agency; or, see <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/resources/curric.html>.

ENGLISH, LANGUAGE ARTS, & READING

In fourth grade language arts, your child will learn:

LISTENING/SPEAKING:

Students will:

- listen to gain information and supporting evidence
- monitor their understanding of a spoken message and appropriately seek clarification

- interpret speaker's messages (both verbal and nonverbal), purposes and perspectives
- monitor their own understanding of the spoken message and seek clarification as needed

READING:

Students will:

- read and comprehend a variety of fourth-grade-level texts
- adjust reading rate according to the purpose of reading
- monitor their own comprehension and reread, use reference aids, search for clues, and ask questions when understanding breaks down
- use multiple reference aids, including software, to clarify and seek information
- study word meanings across content areas and through current events
- respond to readings and ideas through journal writing, discussion, and media
- paraphrase and summarize text
- represent text information by generating outlines, timelines, and graphics
- offer observations, make connections, react, speculate, interpret, and raise questions after reading

WRITING:

Students will:

- capitalize, use punctuation, and spell correctly in "Published" pieces of writing
- evaluate written compositions using assigned and established criteria
- conduct research and raise new questions for further investigation
- write to express, discover, record, develop, reflect on ideas, and problem solve
- compose journals, letters, reviews, poems, narratives, and instructions

VIEWING/REPRESENTING:

Students will:

- understand and interpret visual messages and media
- analyze and critique media
- produce visual images, messages, and meanings that communicate effectively

Note: Students of limited English proficiency (LEP) enrolled in Spanish Language Arts and/or in English as a Second Language will be expected to learn these same knowledge and skills through their native language, and students in English as a Second Language will apply these skills at their proficiency level in English.

MATHEMATICS

In fourth grade mathematics, your child will learn:

NUMBER, OPERATION, AND QUANTITATIVE REASONING:

Students will:

- read, write, compare, and order whole numbers through millions
- read, write, compare, and order decimals through hundredths
- model fractions greater than one
- generate equivalent fractions using models
- compare and order fractions using concrete and picture models
- relate fractions and decimals for tenths and hundredths
- add and subtract whole numbers and decimals to hundredths
- model factors and products
- represent multiplication and division
- recall and apply multiplication facts
- multiply with two-digit multipliers
- divide with a one-digit divisor
- use addition and subtraction to solve problems
- round to tens, hundreds, or thousands
- estimate products and quotients

PATTERNS, RELATIONSHIPS, AND ALGEBRAIC THINKING:

Students will:

- use patterns to remember multiplication facts
- solve division problems using fact families
- use patterns to multiply by 10 and 100
- describe the relationship between two sets of data

GEOMETRY AND SPATIAL REASONING:

Students will:

- use formal language for angles
- identify parallel and perpendicular lines
- describe shapes and solids with vertices, edges, and faces
- demonstrate translations, reflections, and rotations
- verify congruence and symmetry
- locate and name whole numbers, fractions, and decimals on number line

MEASUREMENT:

Students will:

- estimate and measure weight and capacity
- measure length, perimeter, time, temperature, and area

PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS:

Students will:

- interpret bar graphs
- list possible outcomes of a probability experiment
- use a pair of numbers to describe the probability of an event

PROBLEM SOLVING:

Students will:

- identify the mathematics in everyday situations

- use a problem-solving model
- select or develop an appropriate problem-solving strategy
- explain and record observations
- relate informal language to mathematical language and symbols make generalizations from patterns

SCIENCE

In fourth grade science, our child will learn:

FIELD AND LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS:

Students will:

- demonstrate safe, environmentally appropriate, and ethical practices
- learn to use and conserve, dispose and recycle resources

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY:

Students will:

- plan and implement descriptive and simple investigations, ask well-defined questions, formulate hypotheses, select and use appropriate equipment and technology, collect, analyze and interpret information, observe and measure, and communicate valid conclusions
- construct graphs, tables, maps, charts to organize, examine, and evaluate information

CRITICAL THINKING, PROBLEM SOLVING, AND DECISION MAKING SKILLS:

Students will:

- analyze, review, and critique scientific explanations/hypotheses/theories, including strengths, and weaknesses, and draw inferences on promotional materials for products and services
- evaluate research on scientific thought, society, and the environment
- connect science concepts with history of science and contributions of scientists

TOOLS AND MODELS:

Students will:

- collect information, measure, and compare using tools, including safety goggles, microscopes, sound records, computers, hand lenses, thermometers, meter sticks, balances, and compasses
- represent the natural world using models and analyze their limitations
- demonstrate that repeated investigations may increase the reliability of results

SYSTEMS, CYCLES, PATTERNS, AND CHANGE:

Students will:

- identify and describe roles of organisms in living systems and parts in nonliving objects and predict and draw conclusions when part of a system is removed
- identify patterns of change and use reflection to verify symmetry

MATTER AND PHYSICAL PROPERTIES:

Students will:

- observe and record changes in states of matter caused by heat and conduct tests, compare data, and draw conclusions about physical properties of matter-states, conduction, density, and buoyancy

ADAPTATIONS:

Students will:

- identify characteristics that allow survival and reproduction of species
- compare adaptive characteristics of species and identify and compare species that lived in the past to existing species
- distinguish inherited and learned characteristics providing examples

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE EVENTS:

Students will:

- identify and observe effects of events that require time for change to become noticeable

PROCESSES OF THE NATURAL WORLD:

Students will:

- test properties of soils, effects of oceans on land, and the Sun as our major source of energy

SOCIAL STUDIES

In fourth grade social studies, your child will learn:

HISTORY:

Students will:

- compare similarities and differences of Native American groups in Texas and the Western Hemisphere before European exploration
- explain causes and effects of European exploration and colonization of Texas and the Western Hemisphere
- explain causes and effects of the Texas Revolution, the Republic of Texas, and the annexation of Texas to the United States
- describe political, economic, and social changes in Texas during the last half of the 19th century.
- Describe important issues, events, and individuals of the 20th century in Texas

GEOGRAPHY:

Students will:

- use geographic tools to collect, analyze and interpret data
- describe political, economic, and physical regions in Texas and the Western Hemisphere
- explain the location and patterns of settlement and the geographic factors that influence where people live in Texas
- describe how people in Texas adapt to and modify their environment

ECONOMICS:

Students will:

- explain basic patterns of work and economic activities of early societies in Texas
- describe the characteristics and benefits of the free enterprises system in Texas
- identify how Texas, the United States, and the world are economically interdependent

GOVERNMENT:

Students will:

- compare how people organized governments in different ways during the early development of Texas
- identify important ideas in historic documents, such as the Texas Declaration of Independence
- explain the basic functions of the three branches of state government

CITIZENSHIP:

Students will:

- explain important customs, symbols, and celebrations of Texas
- explain the role of the individual in state and local elections
- identify leaders in state and local government and tell how to contact them

CULTURE:

Students will:

- identify the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups to Texas

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY:

Students will:

- describe the impact of science and technology on life in Texas

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS:

Students will:

- apply critical-thinking skills, communicate effectively, and use problem-solving and decision-making processes