



North Dakotans  
FOR  
**student  
success**



# 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 1st grade in English and Math.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> 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 2nd grade.

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

- Use phonics (matching letters and sounds) and word analysis skills to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing.
- Read grade-appropriate books easily, including one to two syllable words and compound words.
- Write about a topic, supplying some facts, and providing some sense of opening and closing.
- Produce and expand complete simple and compound statements, questions, commands, and exclamations.

## Mathematics

- Understand what the digits mean in two-digit numbers (place value).
- Use understanding of place value to add and subtract (e.g.,  $38 + 5$ ,  $29 + 20$ ,  $64 + 27$ ,  $80 - 50$ ).
- Use addition and subtraction to solve word problems using numbers 1 to 20.
- Measure lengths of objects by using a shorter object as a unit of length.

## Help Your Child Learn at Home

**Read with your child for at least 20 minutes each day and help her sound out words.** Ask questions about the book such as, “What was the story about? Tell me what you think is the most important part of the story and why?”

**Pick a “word of the day” each day starting with a different letter.** Have your child write the word and look for other things beginning with the same letter.

**Look for “word problems” in real life.** Some 1st grade examples might include:

- If you open a new carton of a dozen eggs, and you use four eggs to cook dinner, close the carton and ask your child how many eggs are left.
- Play the “I’m thinking of a number” game. For example, “I’m thinking of a number that makes 11 when added to 8. What is my number?”

## 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/](http://www.bealearninghero.org/)

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

» [www.greatschools.org/gk/milestones](http://www.greatschools.org/gk/milestones)

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

» [www.scholastic.com/parents](http://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](http://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/](http://www.nd.gov/dpi/students-parents/standards/)