

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN

GRADE 5

Your Child's Progress

A parent resource for understanding what your child should learn and be able to do this year, and helpful suggestions for supporting your child's learning at home.



CONNECTICUT STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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We owe it to our kids to make sure that they receive an education that prepares them to thrive in a global economy and civic life. That's why Connecticut raised the bar and issued a new instructional roadmap that will prepare our kids for college and careers.

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Our new roadmap, the Connecticut Core Standards, sets learning expectations for what students should learn and be able to do at each grade level so that by the time they graduate from high school, they are ready to succeed in college and the workplace. Local teachers and educators still select and develop curriculum documents and lesson plans.

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New ruler for measuring student success

With these new learning expectations, Connecticut needs new ways to measure student progress. The Smarter Balanced assessments have replaced our old state test, the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), for Grades 3–8 in English language arts and math.

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With the new tests, students will receive new scores. **Results will be different.** In many cases, the scores will look lower on the Smarter Balanced tests than what many are used to seeing on the old state tests. This does not mean that students are learning less. Rather, it reflects that we set the bar higher.

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States that made the transition to college- and career-ready standards saw lower scores the first year, but they also saw improvements year-to-year. For example, in Kentucky the percentage of high school graduates ready for college and careers has increased from 38 percent to 62 percent in just four years.

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This means that, in the beginning, fewer Connecticut students may score at higher levels. But we expect our students will rise to meet the challenge, as they always do.

Real-world skills

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The Connecticut Core Standards focus on critical thinking and problem-solving—the skills students need to be successful in college and careers. The Smarter Balanced assessments are administered on computers and are designed to measure these skills through reading comprehension, writing, and math questions that require students to demonstrate that they truly understand the content—not just fill in a bubble.

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Smarter Balanced will help parents and teachers better understand how the student is progressing, revealing where the student is excelling and where the student needs extra help.



What Your Child Learned in **Grade 4**

Mathematics

- Adding and subtracting whole numbers within 1,000,000 quickly and accurately.
- Developing an understanding of and building fluency with multi-digit multiplication and division (Example: $36 \times 15 = 30 \times 15 + 6 \times 15$; and $20 \times 15 + 10 \times 15 + 6 \times 15 = 36 \times 15$).
- Solving multistep problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and explaining why the answer makes sense.
- Adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator (Example: $5/8 = 1/8 + 1/8 + 1/8 + 1/8 + 1/8$).
- Extending the understanding of fractions by comparing the size of two fractions with different numerators (top numbers) and different denominators (bottom numbers).
- Developing an understanding of equivalent fractions by using pictures, number lines and fraction models (Example: $1/2$ is the same as $3/6$ and the same as $5/10$).
- Converting fractions with denominators of 10 or 100 into decimals, and locating decimals on a number line.
- Connecting addition and subtraction of whole numbers to multiplying fractions by whole numbers.

English Language Arts

- Identifying the purpose of a story, drama, or poem.
- Identifying the main idea of a historical, scientific, or technical text.
- Summarizing the main topic of a text using the key supporting details.
- Comparing characters, events, settings, theme or point of view in stories and myths.
- Explaining how an author uses facts, details, and evidence to support their points.
- Writing on a topic using facts, details, definitions, quotations, or other information.
- Writing a story with an event sequence that unfolds naturally, using dialogue, description and sensory details, and providing a conclusion.
- Writing complete sentences with correct capitalization and spelling.
- Conducting short research projects using evidence from books and other sources.
- Participating in discussions by listening, asking questions, sharing ideas, and building on the ideas of others.

Please note: Text is printed materials (books, newspapers, magazines) as well as graphics, drawings, and multimedia such as audio or visual recordings.

What Your Child Will Learn in **Grade 5**

Mathematics

- Multiplying multidigit whole numbers quickly and accurately.
- Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators (bottom number) by converting them to equivalent fractions with the same denominator (Example: $2/3 - 1/2 = 4/6 - 3/6 = 1/6$).
- Measuring volume using what is known about multiplication and addition and explaining why the measurement makes sense.
- Dividing up to four-digit whole numbers by two-digit divisors (Example: $6,132 \div 14 = 438$
Use compatible numbers and think: $(5600 + 420 + 112) \div 14 = 400 + 30 + 8$).
- Using models and story contexts to multiply and divide unit fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by unit fractions. Multiply fractions by fractions (Examples: $2400 \div 1/4 = 9600$; $3/5 \times 3/4 = 9/20$).
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals to the hundredths place (Example: $0.7 + 1.25 = 1.95$).

English Language Arts

- Summarizing the key details of stories, dramas, poems, and nonfiction materials, including their themes or main ideas.
- Identifying how an author is using evidence to explain or support a topic.
- Giving in-depth descriptions of characters, setting, and events in a story.
- Explaining the relationship or interaction between two or more individuals, events, or ideas based on specific information in one or more texts.
- Writing opinions that offer reasoned arguments and provide facts and details that are logically grouped.
- Writing narratives that develop the plot with dialogue, description, and effective pacing.
- Strengthening writing by planning, revising, editing, or rewriting.
- Using technology to produce and publish writing.
- Conducting short research projects in which a topic is investigated using several sources.
- Participating in discussions by listening, asking questions, sharing ideas, and building on the ideas of others.

Please note: Text is printed materials (books, newspapers, magazines) as well as graphics, drawings, and multimedia such as audio or visual recordings.

How You Can Help Your Child

Mathematics

- Encourage your child to use what is already known to find answers for new problems (Example: If $30 \times 7 = 210$, then $3,000 \times 70 = 210,000$).
- Ask your child to explain what he or she is doing when working on a problem. Be patient with unfamiliar methods, because they might be helpful to support your child's understanding of mathematics.
- Encourage your child to stick with a problem that may seem difficult at first; working on different ways to solve a problem can be helpful.
- Play math games with your child and ask for explanations of his or her strategies and solutions.
- Use everyday activities such as shopping to show your child how fractions and decimals are used.

English Language Arts

- Encourage your child to “read like a detective” to find evidence to compare and contrast characters, events, and information.
- Work with your child to research a topic of interest through print text and online resources.
- Urge your child to keep a daily journal, if possible, on the computer.
- Encourage your child to use reference materials (either in print or online) such as a dictionary, thesaurus, or glossary to look up unknown words or phrases and to look for word meaning within the text.
- Support your child in learning how to make a strong argument. Have your child present an argument on a topic using evidence to support the argument or claim.
- Have family members look for interesting words that were heard that day. Have everyone share the word they collected and tell what they think it means. If the child shares an incorrect meaning, guide him or her to the correct meaning. Try to use some of the words in conversation.
- Talk about the daily news. Pick one news event to read, and then watch a news clip on the same topic. Compare the facts, details, and points of view of the news story.
- Provide your child with exposure to typing on a keyboard (using a home or library computer).

Resources

Mathematics

Khan Academy

This site provides an extensive library of user-friendly content for K–12 mathematics. Students can practice at their own pace and make use of interactive challenges and videos from any computer with access to the Internet.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/commoncore>

KAKOOMA and Other Games

This site includes free games that provide a great way for students to build fluency while engaging in thinking and reasoning. There are games for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing with integers or with fractions. Students must choose the level of difficulty and the number of digits they will use in the game. The app is available for Android or iOS, and includes a timer so that players compete against their own time. <http://gregtangmath.com/>

English Language Arts

Let's Raise the Bar

Sponsored by America Achieves, this site offers helpful tools and free resources to learn how your child is doing and useful guidance on ways to help your child work on key skills where they need practice. <http://raisethebarparents.org/>

Scholastic Book Wizard

Are you looking for just the right book for your child? Scholastic Book Wizard offers ready-made book lists, book talks, author studies, and videos, as well as a way to search for books according to reading level or similar to your child's favorites. <http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/>



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