

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN

GRADE 6

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.

SECTION K-R



What Your Child Learned 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: $\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{4}{6} - \frac{3}{6} = \frac{1}{6}$).
- Measuring volume using what is known about multiplication and addition and explain 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: $2400 \div \frac{1}{4} = 9600$; $\frac{3}{5} \times \frac{3}{4} = \frac{9}{20}$).
- 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 their 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.

What Your Child Will Learn in **Grade 6**

Mathematics

- Using reasoning of multiplication and division to solve problems about quantities, including such things as percent, cost per gallon, and comparison of boys to girls in a class.
- Learning how to divide fractions and using negative numbers.
- Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing multidigit decimals, and dividing multidigit whole numbers quickly and accurately.
- Writing expressions (math statements) with numbers and variables (letters).
- Evaluating expressions (relationship using numbers and letters with no equal sign) by replacing the variables with numbers and using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to calculate the value.
- Understanding when two expressions are the same.
- Writing equations (relationship using numbers and letters with an equal sign) to model real world problems and solving equations such as $10 + x = 15$ to find the value of x to make the equation true.
- Learning about mean (average) and median (middle) to develop an understanding of how data sets can be summarized and what the difference in these values say about the data.
- Solving real-world and mathematical problems involving area (space inside) and volume (how much something holds).

English Language Arts

- Providing detailed summaries of texts.
- Comparing and contrasting various texts, including poems, stories, and historical novels.
- Describing how a particular story or drama's plot unfolds and how characters respond to the plot development.
- Citing evidence to explain what a story, play, poem, or informational text says, and what clues can be used to make inferences.
- Identifying and evaluating specific claims and arguments in a text.
- Supporting written claims or arguments with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- Producing writing that is appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.
- Conducting short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources.
- Gathering information from print and digital sources and assessing the credibility of each source.
- Participating in class discussions about various texts and topics in which the student is prepared to refer to evidence in a text when discussing ideas, to restate other people's ideas, and to understand other perspectives

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.
- Reinforce mathematics by sharing your thinking as you work through real problems, especially if it takes some time and effort to find a solution.
- Share how fractions and decimals are used during cooking, carpentry and financial calculations.
- Encourage your child to stick with a problem that may seem difficult at first.
- Show your child unit rates while shopping.

English Language Arts

- Ask your child to read their own writing out loud. Children can discuss word choices, ideas, and reasons why they wrote about a topic.
- Discuss current events. Children can share their opinions on the issues. Prompt them to back up their claims with evidence from reliable resources.
- Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading. Read books, magazines, newspapers, or blogs online. Have your child write a summary on the computer, share it with an adult, and use the computer to edit.
- Attend a play with your child. Discuss the actors' expressions and how the character are brought to life.
- Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend an opinion. If your child wants to purchase a new item, have him or her conduct research and explain why purchasing that particular brand is the best option. The explanation must be supported with facts and details.
- Encourage your child to write. Create an event flyer or a letter of complaint about a product that no longer works and is still under warranty. Children need to see writing as a real-world experience and not just as a school activity.
- Play games with the family that use reading. There are many word- and vocabulary-building games. Just think of the great reading opportunity provided by the instructions!

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>

IXL

Let your child get extra practice from a limited number of free problems organized by grade level and topic. <http://www.ixl.com/math/>

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/>

NEWSELA

This website provides students with high interest nonfiction articles that are updated daily. Each article offers a choice of five different reading levels, making it just right for each child. <https://newsela.com/>



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