



— A Family's Guide —

TO UNDERSTANDING GRADES AND GRADE REPORTING CRITERIA

— Seventh Grade —

A Family's Guide to Standards and Report Cards

SEVENTH GRADE

Working Together

To support families in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this document provides an overview of the learning expectations for seventh grade. This guide summarizes specific grade-level standards aligned to grade reporting criteria (GRCs) and indicators used for determining progress within each content area in Adams 12 Five Star Schools. The district provides this information as a tool to help families support each student's learning.

The Purpose of Grade Reporting Criteria and Standards

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure that students are successful in college, careers, and life. The standards define what students will learn in multiple content areas – emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century. In middle school these standards have been aligned to grade reporting criteria (GRCs) which ultimately calculate to form a student's composite grade.

The Purpose of Grades

Adams 12 Five Star Schools' grades provide information about each student's progress toward meeting grade level standards across seven content areas: English Language Arts/Literacy, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Grades are available in real time via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Infinite Campus should not serve as the only communication between the school and parents. The Five Star District believes in the importance of maintaining open, ongoing communication with all parents and guardians. Families are strongly encouraged to communicate with teachers throughout the school year to ensure that there is a strong bond and partnership between home and school.

Middle School Grading Rubric			
<i>The rubric below provides a general description of student proficiency with content standards.</i>			
MASTERS - A - 10 points	MEETS - B - 8.5 points	APPROACHING - C - 7.5 points	DOES NOT MEET - D - 6.5 points
The student consistently and independently demonstrates the skills of the standard at or above grade-level or in unfamiliar contexts.	The student consistently demonstrates the skills of the standards at grade-level or in familiar contexts	The student is inconsistent or requires support in applying grade level standards at grade-level or in familiar contexts .	The student demonstrates limited understanding or does not effectively apply grade level standards in familiar contexts .

Social Studies

The bold headings below summarize seventh grade expectations, but do not describe the details of the curriculum. The content standards of history, geography, civics, economics, and personal financial literacy are from the Colorado Academic Standards.



HISTORY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- evaluate multiple viewpoints to formulate a thesis.
- analyze historical sources for accuracy and point of view.
- explain interactions between people and places within the Eastern Hemisphere.
- describe the foundation and development of early civilizations.

GEOGRAPHY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- interpret maps to find patterns in human and physical systems.
- collect, classify, and analyze data to make inferences and predictions about the Eastern Hemisphere.
- explain how the physical environment influences the economy, culture, and trade.

CIVICS

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- analyze the opportunities and limitations of civic participation in various governments.
- illustrate with examples how government and citizens interact.
- compare different forms of government throughout the Eastern Hemisphere.
- evaluate how various governments/organizations interact and collaborate to solve problems.

ECONOMICS/PERSONAL FINANCE LITERACY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- describe how different economic systems developed.
- utilize economic data to evaluate different economic systems.
- identify patterns of trade based on resources.
- compare and contrast consumer choices over time.

CONNECTED LITERACY STANDARDS*

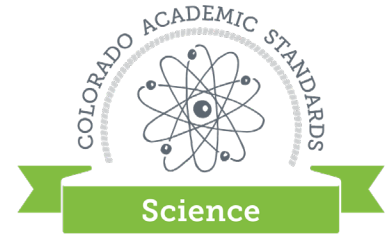
The student demonstrates the following skills in concert with the content standards above:

- cite key details to support analysis in primary and secondary sources.
- identify point of view in primary and secondary sources.
- integrate information from multiple texts on the same topic.
- write arguments focused on discipline specific content.
- conduct short content specific research projects.

**Connected literacy standards are addressed within the context of the appropriate above content standard categories, rather than as their own grading category.*

Science

The bold headings below summarize the three strands that comprise Science Content Standards in seventh grade and the Science Practices necessary for the advancement of science in our society. Skills critical to success in science include observing, collecting, analyzing and interpreting evidence.



LIFE SCIENCE

Using science skills, the student demonstrates the ability to...

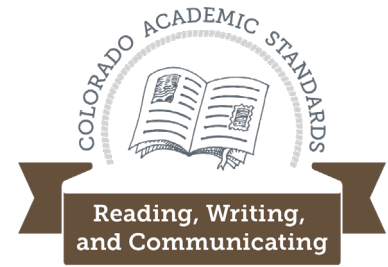
- provide evidence that living things are made of cells; either one cell or many different numbers and types of cells.
- develop and use a model to describe the function of a cell as a whole and ways parts of cells contribute to the function.
- describe the relationship between photosynthesis and cellular respiration within plants - and between plants and animals.
- develop a model to describe how molecules are rearranged through chemical reactions to release energy and support growth of the organism.
- construct a scientifically supported argument that the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells.
- develop and use a model to describe why structural changes to genes may affect proteins and may result in harmful, beneficial, or neutral effects to the structure and function of the organism.
- describe why asexual reproduction results in offspring with identical genetic information and sexual reproduction results in offspring with genetic variation.
- develop and justify claims about differential survival and reproductive success.
- synthesize information about the technologies that have changed the way humans influence the inheritance of desired traits in organisms.
- analyze and interpret data for patterns in the fossil record that document the existence, diversity, extinction, and change of life forms throughout the history of life on Earth.
- analyze evidence of embryo development across multiple species and compare patterns.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- analyze and interpret data.
- create and evaluate models.
- ask questions to further their understanding and determine which questions are testable.
- plan and carry out scientific investigations.
- communicate their scientific thinking
 - cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science texts.
 - analyze symbols, key terms, text structure and author's purpose when reading a text.
 - integrate quantitative and technical information using words and visual representations (graphs, diagrams, pictures).
 - write informational explanations and arguments focused on discipline specific content.

English Language Arts



The bold headings below summarize broad areas of English Language Arts studied in seventh grade, but do not describe the details of the curriculum

READING

With grade-level text, the student demonstrates the ability to...

- comprehend and draw evidence from literary and informational texts.
- construct and support accurate analysis of text.
- use context to determine the meaning of words and phrases.
- analyze the impact of an author's choices on meaning and tone.
- cite several pieces of textual evidence to support sound inferences drawn from text.
- show full understanding of text when referring to explicit details and examples.
- compare and contrast written text to other mediums and accounts.

WRITING

While writing narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces, the student demonstrates the ability to...

- develop a claim, topic, and/or narrative elements in a manner appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.
- Use logical reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description.
- produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.
- include precise language and vocabulary to convey experiences, clarify ideas and create cohesion.
- draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- establish and maintain an effective style, while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline.
- demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

When engaging in a range of discussions on grade-level topics and texts, the student demonstrates the ability to...

- engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.
- interpret information presented in diverse media and formats.
- delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims.
- use multimedia components to present claims and findings.
- adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks.

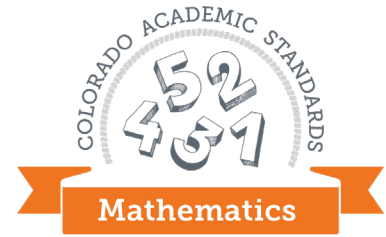
LANGUAGE

When writing and speaking, the student demonstrates...

- command of grade-level conventions of Standard English.
- understanding of multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Mathematics

The bold headings below summarize seventh grade math expectations but do not describe details of the curriculum. Ratios and Proportional Relationships, The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability summarize the broad areas of Mathematics Content Standards studied in seventh grade Math. The Standards for Mathematical Practice outline the critical thinking processes and approaches students use when engaging with the Mathematics Content Standards.



RATIOS AND PROPORTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.

THE NUMBER SYSTEM

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.

EXPRESSIONS AND EQUATIONS

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions.
- solve real-world and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.

GEOMETRY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- draw, construct and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them.
- solve real-world and mathematical problems involving angle measures, area, surface area, and volume.

STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- use random sampling to draw inferences about a population.
- draw informal comparative inferences and two populations.
- investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE*

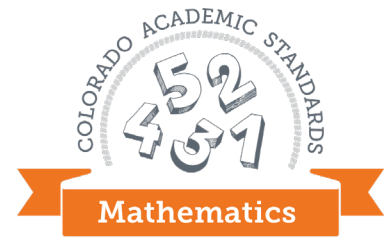
The student demonstrates the following critical thinking processes and approaches when engaging with the content standards above:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

**Standards for Mathematical Practice are addressed within the context of the appropriate Mathematics Content Standards above, rather than as their own grading category.*

Honors Mathematics

The bold headings below summarize seventh grade math expectations but do not describe details of the curriculum. Ratios and Proportional Relationships, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability summarize the broad areas of Mathematics Content Standards studied in seventh grade honors Math. The Standards for Mathematical Practice outline the critical thinking processes and approaches students use when engaging with the Mathematics Content Standards.



RATIOS AND PROPORTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.

EXPRESSIONS AND EQUATIONS

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- work with radical and integer exponents.
- solve real-world and mathematical problems using numerical, algebraic expressions, equations and one variable inequalities.
- understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.
- analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.

GEOMETRY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software.
- solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres.
- draw and construct geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them.
- solve real-world and mathematical problems involving angle measure.

STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.
- use random sampling to draw inferences about a population.
- draw informal comparative inferences and two populations.
- investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE*

The student demonstrates the following critical thinking processes and approaches when engaging with the content standards above:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

**Standards for Mathematical Practice are addressed within the context of the appropriate Mathematics Content Standards above, rather than as their own grading category.*