

A Family's Guide to Standards and Report Cards

SIXTH 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 sixth 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 sixth 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...

- identify ways different cultures record history.
- formulate historical questions from historical documents.
- describe how key people and eras are connected in the Western Hemisphere.
- identify examples of the social, political, cultural, and economic development in key areas of the Western Hemisphere.

GEOGRAPHY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- use geographic tools to locate and compare places and regions.
- use geographic tools to explain and justify potential solutions to problems.
- identify physical features and explain their effects on people in the Western Hemisphere.
- analyze positive and negative interactions of human and physical systems.

CIVICS

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- describe how groups and individuals influence the government and other nations.
- analyze political issues from both a national and global perspective over time.
- compare various governments and the liberties of their citizens.
- compare the economic components of different forms of government.

ECONOMICS/PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- describe the characteristics of traditional, command, market, and mixed economic systems.
- explain the roles of buyers and sellers in the market.
- analyze factors that influence consumer decisions.

CONNECTED LITERACY STANDARDS*

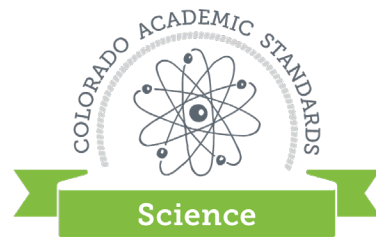
The student demonstrates the following skills in concert with the content standards above:

- 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 sixth 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...

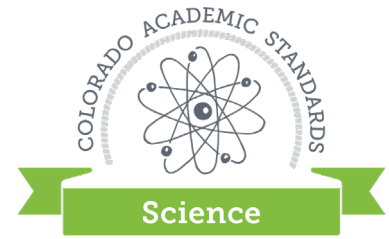
- analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for the effects of resource availability on organisms and populations of organisms in an ecosystem.
- predict patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems.
- develop a model to describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem.
- construct an argument supported by empirical evidence that changes to physical or biological components of an ecosystem affect populations.
- evaluate competing design solutions for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Consider how to monitor and minimize a human impact on the environment.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

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

- develop an evidence based scientific explanation of the atomic model as the foundation for all chemistry.
- use evidence to compare the difference in properties between individual atoms and molecules they form.
- develop a model that predicts and describes changes in particle motion, temperature, and state of a pure substance when thermal energy is added or removed.
- analyze and interpret data on the properties of substances before and after the substances interact to determine if a chemical reaction has occurred.
- develop and use a model to describe how the total number of atoms does not change in a chemical reaction and thus mass is conserved.
- construct, test, and modify a device that either releases or absorbs thermal energy by chemical processes.
- plan an investigation to determine the relationships among the energy matter, mass, and temperature.
- describe that synthetic materials come from natural resources and impact society.

Science continued...



EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE

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

- create a model to describe the cycling of water through Earth's systems.
- communicate an evidence based explanation for the complex interactions between Earth's constructive and destructive forces.
- interpret patterns to explain tectonic plate motion and resulting geologic events and surface changes.
- analyze data to predict and plan for future catastrophic events.
- describe the geologic time scale and justify its use.
- justify a scientific explanation for past plate motion.
- develop a model to describe the cycling of Earth's materials and the flow of energy that drives this process.
- construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how the uneven distributions of Earth's mineral, energy, and groundwater resources are the result of past and current geoscience processes.
- construct an argument supported by evidence for how increases in human population and per-capita consumption of natural resources impact Earth's systems.

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 sixth 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 word choice on meaning and tone.
- cite textual evidence to support sound inferences drawn from the text.
- show full understanding of text when referring to explicit details and examples.
- compare and contrast texts in terms of presentation, form, genre, and medium.

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 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 and clarify ideas.
- 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.

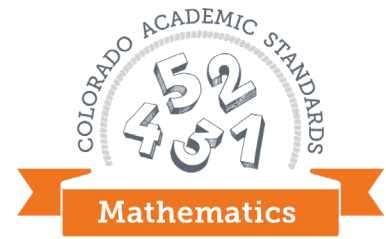
LANGUAGE

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 6 reading and content, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Mathematics

The bold headings below summarize sixth 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 sixth 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...

- understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.

THE NUMBER SYSTEM

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.
- multiply and divide multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.
- apply and extend previous understanding of numbers to the system of rational numbers.

EXPRESSIONS AND EQUATIONS

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.
- reasons about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.
- represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.

GEOMETRY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- solve real-world mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- develop understanding of statistical variability.
- summarize and describe data distributions.

STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE*

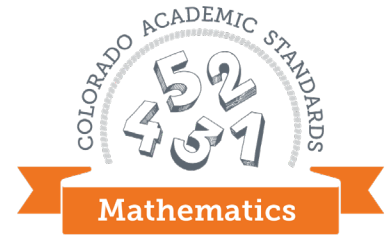
The student demonstrates the following critical thinking processes and approaches when engaging with the content standards above:

- 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 sixth 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 sixth 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...

- understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.

THE NUMBER SYSTEM

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.
- multiply and divide multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.
- apply and extend previous understanding of numbers to the system of rational numbers.
- 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...

- apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.
- use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions.
- reasons about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.
- represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.

GEOMETRY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- solve real-world mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
- describe geometrical figures and the relationship between them.

STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- develop understanding of statistical variability.
- summarize and describe data distributions.

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.*