



Curriculum & Learning Goals

Kindergarten

Our K-6 curriculum is thoughtfully designed to align with the District's overarching priorities, ensuring every student benefits from a transformative educational experience. Rooted in (1) innovation, (2) collaboration, and (3) holistic development, our curriculum fosters essential skills and dispositions through dynamic, hands-on learning experiences. Students engage in activities that develop communication, executive functioning, creativity, and critical thinking while nurturing curiosity, resilience, cultural awareness, and civic responsibility. This holistic approach ensures that every child grows as an empathetic, socially responsible lifelong learner, prepared to thrive in a diverse and interconnected world.

Literacy

The NYSED English Language Arts (ELA) Learning Standards define the essential skills students need to become proficient readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. These anchor standards provide a consistent framework across grade levels, guiding educators in designing instruction that supports literacy growth and prepares students for success.

- [NYSED Reading Anchor Standards](#)
- [NYSED Writing Anchor Standards](#)
- [NYSED Speaking & Listening Anchor Standards](#)
- [NYSED Language Anchor Standards](#)
- [NYSED English Language Arts Learning Standards for K](#)



Oral Language – Students engage in collaborative discussions, ask questions, and use descriptive language about familiar subjects. They participate in conversations, adhere to conversation guidelines, and request clarification when necessary.

Phonological Awareness – Students demonstrate an understanding of spoken words, syllables, and phonemes by recognizing and producing rhyming words, blending and segmenting syllables, onsets, rimes, and individual sounds in one-syllable words. They also create new words by manipulating phonemes in one-syllable words.

Phonics – Students apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills to decode words by demonstrating letter-sound correspondence, decoding short vowel sounds, and reading common high-frequency words by sight. They also decode regularly spelled one-syllable words.

Vocabulary – Students explore new vocabulary, including multiple-meaning words and word relationships, by identifying meanings, using affixes, and categorizing objects. They also demonstrate understanding of verbs, adjectives, and antonyms and use words acquired through conversation and reading to describe and connect concepts.

Fluency – Students engage with emergent-level texts and read-alouds to demonstrate comprehension by identifying key details and main ideas. They also answer questions about the text to show understanding.

Comprehension – Students collaborate in conversations with peers and adults, following discussion rules, taking turns, and staying on topic. They engage in multiple exchanges, consider individual differences, and ask questions to clarify understanding while discussing diverse texts and formats.

Mathematics

The NYSED Kindergarten Mathematics Standards emphasize building a strong foundation in number sense. Through hands-on activities, kindergarteners recognize, count, and compare numbers. While number concepts should be a primary focus, all math standards—including geometry, measurement, data, and problem-solving—should be integrated into instruction. By prioritizing number relationships, shapes, and spatial understanding and using interactive learning strategies, kindergarteners can develop a well-rounded mathematical foundation that supports future growth.



- [NYSED Mathematics Learning Standards for K](#)

Counting, Cardinality, Operations, and Algebraic Thinking – Students develop a more formal understanding of numbers by using numerals to represent quantities and solve basic quantitative problems, such as counting objects, comparing sets, and modeling simple addition and subtraction situations. They also choose and apply effective strategies to answer quantitative questions, including recognizing small sets, counting, and determining how many objects remain in a set after some are removed.

Geometry, Measurement, and Data – Students describe their physical world using geometric concepts such as shape, orientation, and spatial relations. They identify and describe basic 2D and 3D shapes and use them to create more complex shapes. Additionally, they explore coins and begin identifying pennies and dimes.

Science

[The NYSP12SLS are grounded in the National Research Council's Framework for K–12 Science Education and the Next Generation Science Standards](#), incorporating current research in science and learning. These standards emphasize students' engagement with natural phenomena through three interconnected dimensions: (1) Science and Engineering Practices, (2) Disciplinary Core Ideas, and (3) Crosscutting Concepts.

- [NYSED Science Learning Standards for K](#)

The main foci in kindergarten are:

Weather and Climate/Matter and Its Interactions – Students explore the Sun's role in warming the Earth and use temperature data to predict and prepare for severe weather. They develop scientific observation skills by recording and analyzing data and tracking local climate trends throughout the year. Additionally, students celebrate the 100 days of school by reviewing the temperature data they have collected.



Forces and Interactions: Pushes and Pulls – Students investigate how different strengths of pushes and pulls affect object movement and use arrows to model and represent the direction and magnitude of forces.

Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants, and Their Environment – Students study the concept of interdependence in life science by exploring how plants and animals acquire the resources they need to survive, including air, water, energy, and shelter. They learn how human actions impact the environment and other organisms and design a habitat for ladybugs to apply their understanding of resource needs. Additionally, students examine how plants and animals may change their environment to meet survival needs and how these changes affect other organisms.

Social Studies

In kindergarten, students explore "Self and Others" through five social studies units: Individual Development, Civic Ideals, Geography, Time and Change, and Economic Systems.

These units help students understand themselves and their surroundings, learning about differences and similarities between children, families, and communities, as well as holidays, symbols, and traditions that unite Americans. They also develop respect for others and an understanding of individual rights and responsibilities. The NYS Social Studies Framework includes the C3 Framework from the National Council for Social Studies and can be illustrated as follows:



- [NYSED Social Studies Framework for K](#)

The central units in kindergarten are:

Individual Development and Cultural Identity – Students explore their sense of self through personal traits, family traditions, and cultural differences. They learn about their gender, ethnicity, family, likes, and talents and identify similarities and differences with classmates. Students also study American symbols, holidays, and traditions and show respect for the flag and national anthem.

Civic Ideals and Practices – Students identify their basic rights, such as access to food, shelter, education, and protection from harm. They understand their classroom and home responsibilities and perform duties to promote safety and welfare. Students discuss the importance of rules for safety and order, explore classroom routines, and have the opportunity to help create new rules for class activities.

Geography, Humans, and the Environment – Students identify the differences between a map and a globe and use them to locate familiar places in the community. They learn geographic vocabulary to describe locations and directions. Additionally, students explain how seasonal weather changes affect people and communities.

Time, Continuity, and Change – Students use time-related words (e.g., first, next, last, before, after) to recount events and experiences. They retell a story and explain the values, ideas, or traditions it teaches about the past.

Economic Systems – Students recognize basic needs (food, clothing, shelter) and distinguish between needs and wants. They describe examples of goods and services and understand the concept of scarcity by explaining situations where not all needs and wants can be met.

Visual & Performing Arts

New York State students in kindergarten explore visual arts and music to foster creativity. They develop drawing, painting, and sculpture skills while learning about color and shape. In music, they explore rhythm and melody through singing and playing instruments, helping them appreciate art and music as ways to express themselves and connect with the world.

- [NYSED Visual Arts Standards](#)
- [NYSED Music Standards](#)

Art – Students learn about art materials, safety protocols, classroom procedures, and literature-based art concepts. They experiment with different mediums while exploring the work of various artists.

Music – Students will sing simple songs, move to the beat, and explore basic music concepts like high/low, loud/soft, and fast/slow using their voices and instruments.



Physical Education & Health

New York State's updated Physical Education Learning Standards promote physical literacy, health, and social-emotional learning. Developed with input from educators and experts, they emphasize the connection between physical and mental health. The standards will be implemented in three phases and align with broader wellness initiatives.

- [NYSED Physical Education Standards - K](#)

Physical Education – Kindergarten students demonstrate competency in various motor skills and movement patterns, applying knowledge of movement concepts, strategies, and tactics. They exhibit responsible behavior, maintain a health-enhancing fitness level, and recognize career opportunities while managing resources for overall wellness.



Assessments

ELA

- Phonics assessments
- Reading Conferences 3x per month
- 3x per year, word recognition, vocabulary, comprehension, and text complexity.
- Assess students' ability to organize ideas, use proper grammar, and communicate clearly in different writing formats.

MATH

- Unit assessments on key math concepts, problem-solving skills, and ability to apply strategies learned during each unit

SCIENCE

- End-of-unit assessments through student work and discussions on key scientific concepts, inquiry skills, and their ability to apply what they learn to real-world scenarios.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- End-of-unit assessments, student work, and discussions on key concepts while evaluating their ability to apply grade-level ideas to their own lives and experiences

ART & MUSIC

- Student work based on unit

P.E. / HEALTH

- Fitness assessment