



Curriculum & Learning Goals

First Grade

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 Grade 1](#)



Oral Language – Students orally describe familiar people, places, things, and events with relevant details, using visual displays to enhance their descriptions. They speak clearly in complete sentences, adjusting their language based on the task, situation, and audience.

Phonological Awareness – Students demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes) by counting, blending, and segmenting single-syllable words with consonant blends and creating and manipulating new words by changing individual sounds in spoken one-syllable words.

Phonics – Students use phonics and word analysis skills to decode words, recognize letter-sound correspondences, identify syllables, and read high-frequency words by sight.

Vocabulary – Students use context, affixes, and root words to determine the meaning of unknown or multiple-meaning words. They also categorize words, define them by key attributes, and distinguish between shades of meaning. Additionally, students use words and phrases learned through reading and conversation, including conjunctions, to signal relationships.

Fluency – Students read beginner-level texts with accuracy, fluency, and expression, using context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and comprehension.

Comprehension – Students engage in discussions by listening, staying on topic, asking clarifying questions, and building on others' ideas. They also develop questions to understand key details and speakers' viewpoints.

Mathematics

The NYSED Mathematics Learning Standards define the essential skills students need to develop strong mathematical understanding and proficiency over time. These standards aim to prepare students for a math-dependent world, allowing educators to create innovative programs. They balance conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and application, ensuring students are ready for post-secondary education and the workforce.



- [NYSED Mathematics Learning Standards for Grade 1](#)

Operations and Algebraic Thinking – Students develop strategies for adding and subtracting whole numbers using models like discrete objects and length-based models. They understand connections between counting and addition/subtraction, use properties of addition (e.g., "making tens") to solve problems within 20, and compare different strategies for solving addition and subtraction problems.

Numbers and Operations in Base Ten – Students develop and use efficient methods to add within 100 and subtract multiples of 10. They compare whole numbers up to 100, understand their relative sizes, and represent numbers between 10 and 100 in terms of tens and ones. Additionally, they build number sense by exploring the order and magnitude of counting numbers.

Measurement and Data – Students develop an understanding of measurement by learning about concepts like iterating, which involves using equal-sized units to measure the length of an object, and the transitivity principle for indirect measurement.

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.

- [New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards for Grade 1](#)

The main foci in first grade are:



Earth's Systems: Patterns and Cycles – Students observe the Sun, moon, and stars to identify patterns in their movement. Through firsthand observations, they describe, represent, and predict future changes in these astronomical objects. Using inquiry-based learning, students practice careful observation and develop a deeper understanding of planetary movements over time.

Waves: Light and Sound – Students explore the physics of sound and light by investigating how light interacts with materials and how sound causes vibrations. They conduct experiments, make observations, and design devices that use light or sound to communicate over distances. Through inquiry and play, students will begin to understand the cause-and-effect relationships between vibrations, movement, and wave behavior.

Structure, Function, and Information Processing – Students investigate how plants and animals vary across generations, communicate for survival, and use adaptations to thrive. They also learn how engineers use nature's solutions to design human innovations.

Social Studies

The NYSED Social Studies framework focuses on students examining families, cultural diversity, and responsible citizenship. They will explore the role of authority in making rules, enhance geography skills through maps and directions, and learn about family history and its sources. Additionally, students will be introduced to economic concepts related to family resources and decision-making. 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 Grade 1](#)

The main units in first grade focus on my family and other families, now and long ago:

Individual Development and Cultural Identity – Students explore how language, beliefs, customs, and traditions shape family and community identity. They compare family traditions, learn about cultural diversity in New York State, and understand the significance of historical figures, events, and national symbols. Students also recite the Pledge of Allegiance and learn patriotic songs, understanding their meanings.

Civic Ideals and Practices – Students learn about their role as citizens in local and global communities. They participate in group activities, model responsible citizenship, and discuss ways to protect and respect the world and its people. Students also understand the purpose of rules and laws, the role of governments, and the importance of problem-solving, decision-making, and conflict resolution.

Geography, Humans, and the Environment – Students use maps and symbols to describe locations and physical features. They practice using cardinal directions and creating maps. Students identify important places on maps and discuss how people modify the environment to meet their needs and the positive and negative effects of these interactions.

Time, Continuity, and Change – Students create personal and family timelines, explore how families have changed over time, and compare past and present families. They use historical sources like artifacts and interviews to understand how life has changed and describe characters in biographies.

Economic Systems – Students learn about scarcity, the need for choices due to limited resources, and the costs involved. They explore goods and services, producers and consumers, and how work helps people earn money to meet needs and wants, including saving and spending decisions.

Visual & Performing Arts

The First Grade Next Generation Standards for Art and Music encourage creativity and expression. In Art, students create artwork, explore materials, and connect art to other subjects. In Music, they experiment with sound, rhythm, and melody and connect music to culture and learning. Both subjects foster self-expression and cultural awareness.

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

Art – Students engage in literature-based art projects, participate in group discussions to analyze art, and learn the proper use of art materials while understanding their responsibilities in the art room. They collaborate with peers to create art and discuss their work.

Music – Students explore and create music through singing, movement, and playing simple instruments. They develop basic rhythm, pitch, and dynamics skills and describe and respond to music in various genres.



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 - Grade 1](#)

Physical Education – Students build on body and space awareness in first-grade physical education through locomotor and non-locomotor activities. They explore how movement affects the body and mind while reinforcing personal responsibility and positive behavior. Through challenging activities, students gain confidence and motivation to stay active.



Assessments

| ELA | MATH | SCIENCE |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phonics assessments• Word recognition, vocabulary, comprehension, and text complexity.• Students' ability to organize ideas, use proper grammar, and communicate clearly in different writing formats | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit assessments on key math concepts, problem-solving skills, and ability to apply strategies learned during each unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• End-of-unit key scientific concepts, inquiry skills, and their ability to apply what they learn to real-world scenarios |
| SOCIAL STUDIES | ART & MUSIC | P.E. / HEALTH |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• End-of-unit assessments on key concepts while evaluating students' ability to connect ideas to everyday lives and the world at large | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student work based on unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fitness assessment |