



# Curriculum & Learning Goals

## Fifth 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 5](#)



**Oral Language** – Students engage in collaborative discussions, presenting and defending their ideas, responding to questions and comments, and using academic vocabulary to support their arguments and explain their thinking.

**Phonological Awareness** – Students identify and manipulate syllables, onsets, rimes, and phonemes in multisyllabic words, demonstrating their ability to decode and pronounce complex words accurately in reading and speaking tasks.

**Phonics** – Students decode and pronounce multisyllabic words accurately and use knowledge of phonics and word patterns to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words in grade-level texts.

**Vocabulary** – Students determine the meaning of unknown words using context, affixes, and reference materials. They demonstrate understanding of figurative language, idioms, and word relationships and accurately use academic and content-specific vocabulary.

**Fluency** – Students read grade-level text with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression, using context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as needed to support comprehension.

**Comprehension** – Students engage in collaborative discussions, express ideas clearly, build on others' contributions, and draw conclusions. They summarize information in various formats and evaluate the reasons and evidence presented.

### 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 5](#)

**Number and Operations-Fractions and Algebraic Thinking** –Students use fraction models to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators, develop fluency in fraction calculations, and explain the procedures for multiplying and dividing fractions, focusing on unit fractions and whole numbers.

**Operations and Algebraic Thinking and Number and Operations in Base Ten** –Students apply their understanding of base-ten numerals and operations to add, subtract, and divide decimals, developing fluency and explaining why decimal procedures make sense.

**Measurement Data and Geometry** –Students recognize volume as a property of three-dimensional space, measure it using cubic units, and apply strategies to estimate and solve volume problems, including decomposing shapes to find the volume of right rectangular prisms.

## 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 5](#)



The main foci in fifth grade are:

**Space Systems: Stars and the Solar System** – Students explore the interactions between Earth, the Sun, and the Moon, understanding how gravity, orbits, and rotation create patterns like day/night, shadow changes, and moon phases. They use models and prior knowledge to predict and explain these patterns.

**Structure and Properties of Matter** – Students explore how matter is made of tiny particles and learn that changes in matter, like melting or mixing, can be explained by these particles while also understanding the conservation of matter.

**Earth Systems** –Students investigate Earth's systems (geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere), understand their interactions, and explore how human activities impact the environment while developing solutions to environmental challenges.

**Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems**—Students explore energy transfer in ecosystems, understand food chains and webs, and investigate how matter cycles between organisms and the environment.

## Social Studies

The NYSED Social Studies framework focuses on the history, geography, economics, and government of New York State and local communities. It emphasizes their changes over time and encourages teachers to make local connections. These include using evidence, chronological reasoning, causation, comparison and contextualization, geographic reasoning, understanding economics, and civic participation. The students will apply their knowledge in real-world situations. 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 5](#)

The main unit in fifth grade is the Western Hemisphere:

**Early Migration to the Americas** – Explore theories of human migration, including the Bering Land Bridge and coastal routes. Examine early archaeological evidence and how migrations shaped diverse cultures across the Americas.

**Rise of Complex Civilizations** – Study the achievements of the Olmec, Maya, Aztecs, and Incas in agriculture, architecture, and governance. Understand their social structures, religions, and political systems.

**European Exploration and Its Impact** – Learn about European motivations for exploration and their first encounters with Native Americans. Discuss the effects of colonization, including disease, cultural disruption, and territorial changes.

**Geography's Role in Settlement and Economy** – Investigate how geography influenced settlement patterns, agriculture, and trade. Explore how regional economies developed based on available resources.

**Comparing Cultures, Governments, and Economies** – Compare the cultures, political systems, and economies of indigenous groups, European settlers, and colonial powers.

**The Role of Trade in Global Interdependence** – Study the Columbian Exchange and its economic impact on the Old and New Worlds. Examine how global trade networks shaped interdependence between nations.

**Long-term Impacts on the Western Hemisphere** – Reflect on the lasting social, political, and economic effects of colonization and cultural fusion. Discuss how these historical developments influence modern-day societies in the Americas.

## Visual & Performing Arts

In fifth grade, students develop skills in creating, interpreting, and presenting art. They explore various media and techniques while understanding art's cultural and historical significance and improve their ability to express ideas visually through the arts.

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

**Art** – Students create and refine artwork using various materials and techniques, demonstrate an understanding of art's cultural and historical contexts, and analyze how visual elements communicate ideas and emotions in individual and collaborative projects.

**Music** – Students perform, compose, and analyze music, exploring rhythm, melody, and cultural expression.



## Physical Education & Health

New York State's updated Physical Education Standards emphasize physical literacy, health, and social-emotional learning, linking physical and mental well-being. Developed with expert input, they align with wellness initiatives and roll out in three phases.

- [NYSED Physical Education Standards - Grade 5](#)

**Physical Education** – Students develop locomotor, non-locomotor, and manipulative skills, practice strategies and communication in small-sided games, and explain the connection between fitness and health behaviors while using community resources for physical activities.



## Assessments

### ELA

- Word recognition, vocabulary, comprehension, and text complexity
- Grade-level vocabulary and spelling
- Students' ability to organize ideas, use proper grammar, and communicate clearly in different writing formats
- End-of-year assessments on students' reading, writing, and language skills to ensure they meet grade-level standards in English

### MATH

- Unit assessments on key math concepts, problem-solving skills, and ability to apply strategies learned during the unit
- End-of-year assessments of students' understanding and application of mathematical concepts and skills, including arithmetic, problem-solving, and reasoning, to ensure they meet grade-level standards

### SCIENCE

- End-of-unit assessments focus on students' understanding of key concepts like matter, Earth systems, ecosystems, energy, and engineering
- End-of-year science concepts covered in the curriculum, including physical science, life science, and Earth science

### SOCIAL STUDIES

- End-of-unit assessments on students' understanding of historical events, geography, and the impact of cultures and societies

### ART & MUSIC

- Student work based on unit

### P.E. / HEALTH

- Fitness assessment