



# Curriculum & Learning Goals

## Second 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 2](#)



**Oral Language** – Students develop oral language skills by participating in discussions, asking and answering questions, recounting stories with details, using complete sentences, proper grammar, and following discussion rules.

**Phonological Awareness** – Students show understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds by counting, combining, and breaking apart one-syllable words with consonant blends and by changing sounds to form new one-syllable words.

**Phonics** – Students use phonics skills to decode words, recognize long and short vowels, identify root words and affixes, and read high-frequency words by sight.

**Vocabulary** – Students use context, prefixes, root words, and dictionaries to determine the meaning of unknown words. They connect words and their uses, understand word relationships and use adjectives and adverbs to describe.

**Fluency** – Students read grade-level text accurately and fluently to support comprehension, using appropriate rate and expression and self-correcting or confirming word recognition through context.

**Comprehension** – Students participate in discussions by listening, taking turns, staying on topic, and building on others' ideas. They ask for clarification, recount key concepts, and express agreement or disagreement with reasons.

## 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 2](#)

**Number and Operations in Base Ten** – Students extend their understanding of the base-ten system by counting in fives, tens, and multiples of hundreds, tens, and ones. Students understand multi-digit numbers (up to 1000) in base-ten notation, recognizing the value of digits in the thousands, hundreds, tens, and one's places (e.g., 853 is eight hundreds + 5 tens + 3 ones).

**Operations and Algebraic Thinking** and **Numbers and Operations in Base Ten** – Students use their understanding of addition to develop fluency with addition and subtraction within 100. They solve problems within 1000 using models for addition and subtraction, applying place value and the properties of operations. Students also select and apply appropriate methods to mentally calculate sums and differences for numbers involving only tens or hundreds.

**Measurement and Data** – Students recognize the need for standard units of measure (centimeters and inches) and use rulers and other tools to measure. They understand that linear measurement involves repeating units and that smaller units require more iterations to cover a given length.

**Geometry** – Students describe and classify shapes as polygons or non-polygons. They investigate and reason about decomposing and combining shapes to form new ones. Students draw, partition, and analyze two-dimensional shapes, laying the foundation for understanding area, congruence, similarity, and fractions in future grades.

## 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 2](#)



The main foci in second grade are:

**Structure and Properties of Matter** – Students explore the properties of matter, including temperature changes, and test materials to design playground equipment. They learn how science and engineering work together. They also use the Question Formulation Technique (QFT) to spark curiosity.

**Earth's Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth** – Students explore how Earth changes, including the effects of wind and water, unique landforms, and the states of water. They ask questions, create models, use maps, and practice arguing from evidence using the Claims-Evidence-Reasoning (CER) framework.

**Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems** – Students explore how plants and animals survive by investigating what plants need to grow, how they depend on each other, and the habitats they live in. They make predictions, conduct investigations, and use evidence to support plant growth and survival claims.

## Social Studies

The NYSED Social Studies framework focuses on students examining families, cultural diversity, and responsible citizenship. They 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 are 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 2](#)

The main units in second grade focus on students' community and other communities:

**Individual Development and Cultural Identity** – Students identify and compare the characteristics of urban, suburban, and rural communities, including population density and land use. They explore how different activities and housing types shape life in each community. Students also examine cultural diversity within their community, understanding how traditions and perspectives contribute to the common identity and strengthen the community.

**Civic Ideals and Practices** – Students learn about democratic principles such as equality, fairness, and respect for authority and how they apply to their community. They explore the role of government, the voting process, and symbols of American democracy. Students also understand the importance of laws, leadership, and citizen service in their community.

**Geography, Humans, and the Environment** – Students explore how geography and natural resources shape urban, suburban, and rural communities. They use maps to identify land use, physical features, and human modifications to the environment. Students also learn geography vocabulary to describe locations, directions, and significant features.

**Time, Continuity, and Change** – Students explore the changes and continuities in communities over time, using historical tools like timelines and evidence such as maps, photographs, and artifacts. They examine cause-and-effect relationships to understand how events and developments, like the growth of suburbs or population changes, shape communities.

**Economic Systems** – Students explore how communities meet *needs* and *wants* through resources, economic decisions, and the roles of goods, services, and jobs. They understand how scarcity, prices, taxes, and collaboration between communities impact these processes.

## Visual & Performing Arts

The second-grade visual arts standards in New York focus on developing creativity through creating, presenting, and responding to art. Students explore various materials and techniques, learn about the elements of art, and analyze artworks to understand their meaning and cultural context.

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

**Art** – Students select appropriate art materials for their projects and use suitable vocabulary to express preferences and interpretations of different artworks, fostering self-expression, empathy, and respect for diverse perspectives.

**Music** – Students demonstrate an understanding of musical concepts by identifying and creating rhythms, melodies, and songs.



## 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 are implemented in three phases and align with broader wellness initiatives.

- [NYSED Physical Education Standards - Grade 2](#)

**Physical Education** – Students build upon foundational body and space awareness through locomotor and non-locomotor activities. They identify strategies to promote personal responsibility and positive decision-making in group settings. Participation in various physical activities enhances skills and confidence and encourages active involvement in community resources for physical fitness.



## Assessments

### ELA

- Phonics assessments
- Word recognition, vocabulary, comprehension, and text complexity.
- 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 the unit

### SCIENCE

- End-of-unit assessments of key scientific concepts, inquiry skills, and their ability to apply what they learn to real-world scenarios

### SOCIAL STUDIES

- End-of-unit assessments on key geography, history, communities, and cultural differences, focusing on people, events, and the roles of citizens

### ART & MUSIC

- Student work based on unit

### P.E. / HEALTH

- Fitness assessment