

Parents' Guide to Student Success



This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of Kindergarten in English Language Arts and mathematics. This guide is based on West Virginia's College and Career Readiness Standards. If your child is meeting expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 1st grade.

KINDERGARTEN

English Language Arts & Literacy

Kindergarten students in West Virginia English Language Arts (ELA) focus on building foundational literacy skills that prepare them to become readers, writers, and communicators. At the kindergarten level, instruction emphasizes early reading skills, basic writing, vocabulary development, and participating in conversations. Students will learn to:

Develop early reading skills

- Recognize letters and sounds (phonics)
- Understand how books work (front to back, left to right)
- Identify characters, settings, and basic story elements

Build writing skills

- Write letters, simple words, and basic sentences
- Use invented spelling based on sounds
- Draw and label pictures to express ideas

Strengthen speaking and listening

- Participate in conversations with peers and adults
- Ask and answer questions using who, what, where, when, and why
- Follow directions and express thoughts clearly

Learn language and vocabulary

- Use common nouns, verbs, and prepositions
- Understand basic grammar and sentence structure
- Recognize capitalization and punctuation basics

Mathematics

In kindergarten, mathematics focuses on building number sense, basic operations, and early reasoning skills through hands-on exploration and real-world contexts. The standards emphasize not just learning numbers and shapes, but also developing problem-solving, communication, and critical thinking skills that support long-term mathematical understanding.

Example classroom activities:

- Count objects by ones and tens to tell how many there are
- Count and group pennies
- Add and subtract up to 10 or less using drawings and objects
- Name geometric shapes
- Add and subtract up to 5 quickly and accurately
- Compare objects using words such as longer, shorter, bigger, and smaller