

EXPANDING HORIZONS & FLUENCY

A Family Guide to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) — Grade 2

Welcome to Second Grade!

Second grade represents a pivotal year where students solidify foundational mechanics and dive deeply into fluid academic application. Grounded completely in the **New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS)**, this guide highlights the milestones your child is expected to achieve by June. To navigate this advanced learning tier, our instruction integrates the state-adopted **Savvas myView Literacy** and **McGraw Hill Reveal Math** curricula. To continually evaluate student needs and calibrate customized learning acceleration, our district monitors progress using a multi-layered diagnostic system featuring **DIBELS 8th Edition** and the adaptive **i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment**, administered three times a year (Fall, Winter, and Spring).

The Crucial Role of Parents and Caregivers

In second grade, students shift from learning to read over to reading to learn, and from model-based arithmetic to abstract mathematical thinking. Active home partnership builds the learning stamina required for these advanced milestones.

Advanced Literacy Support

- **Foster Active Comprehension:** Ask your child to summarize chapters in their own words. Ask questions that require inference: *"Why did the character make that choice even though it was risky?"*
- **Decode Multi-Syllable Words:** When your child hits an unfamiliar word, help them segment it by prefixes, suffixes, or root bases rather than guessing.
- **Develop Multi-Paragraph Journaling:** Prompt your child to write short reviews of movies, books, or family events, ensuring they link multiple sentences using logical transition words.

Advanced Mathematical Support

- **Lock In Mental Arithmetic Facts:** Drill quick mental addition and subtraction facts up to 20 during car rides or daily routines to lock in required automaticity.
- **Interact with Real Money:** Have your child count loose pocket change, calculate simple cash transactions, or simulate small grocery store budget scenarios.
- **Review Benchmark Results:** Partner with your child's teacher to review performance feedback after each testing window, focusing on target areas to reinforce specific operational concepts at home.

ELA Language Arts & The Savvas myView Program

Second-grade literacy instruction emphasizes structural reading fluency, vocabulary acquisition, and the decoding of complex text. Powered by **Savvas myView Literacy**, children participate in interactive reading workshops to master word patterns, analyze diverse literary genres, and craft multiparagraph compositions.

1. Foundational Reading Skills & Word Study (NJSLS RF.2.3 – RF.2.4)

First-grade single-letter phonics expands into systemic word structural analysis. Second graders learn to decode long-vowel team patterns (e.g., ai, ee, oa, ie, ui), identify r-controlled vowel structures (e.g., ar, er, ir, or, ur), and instantly decode words containing common prefixes and suffixes (such as re-, un-, dis-, -ful, -less, -ly).

Students must distinguish long and short vowels when reading regularly spelled two-syllable words and recognize grade-level irregularly spelled high-frequency words automatically. Reading fluency benchmarks require children to read grade-level text orally with accuracy, a steady pace that matches conversational prose, and proper expression to prove comprehension.

2. Advanced Reading Comprehension & Vocabulary (NJSLS RL.2.1 – RI.2.10)

Students independently ask and answer core investigative questions (*Who, what, where, when, why, how*) to demonstrate explicit understanding of complex texts.

- **Literature:** Students recount stories from diverse cultures, determine the central message or lesson, and describe how characters respond to major challenges or turning points.
- **Informational Text:** Students identify the primary main topic of a multi-paragraph text, isolate the specific focus of individual paragraphs, and interpret key text features (e.g., captions, bold text, indexes, subheadings). They learn to describe how an author uses specific reasons to support points in a text.

3. Written Composition & Grammar Mechanics (NJSLS W.2.1 – W.2.3 & L.2.1 – L.2.2)

Using the **myView** Writing Workshop, students outline, draft, and polish structured multi-paragraph compositions across three core target areas:

- **Opinion Compositions:** Clearly introducing a topic, stating a definitive opinion, connecting multiple body sentences with logical transition words (e.g., *because, also, in addition*), and delivering a structured conclusion.
- **Informative / Explanatory Texts:** Introducing a factual topic, grouping related facts into paragraph structures, using definitions, and providing a final summary statement.
- **Narrative Recounts:** Detailing a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, including descriptive details to express thoughts and feelings, and organizing clear temporal transitions to signal strict chronological order.

Conventions and Grammar: Produce collective nouns, form irregular plural nouns (e.g., *feet, teeth, mice*), apply reflexive pronouns (e.g., *myself, ourselves*), and form irregular past-tense verbs (e.g., *ran, sat, told*). Capitalize geographic names, holidays, product names, and commercial titles. Correctly integrate apostrophes in contractions and possessives, use commas in letter greetings/closings, and utilize systematic dictionary vowel-consonant rules to check spelling.

MATH

Mathematics & The McGraw Hill Reveal Math Program

Second Grade math expands student reasoning to multi-digit arithmetic, place value concepts up to 1,000, foundational concepts for multiplication through arrays, standard measurement units, time, money, and geometric partitioning. Supported by McGraw Hill Reveal Math, students explore concepts through structural learning phases:

- **Launch:** Engaging problem contexts and rich math talks that spark curiosity, activate prior knowledge, and establish purpose.
- **Explore & Develop:** Active investigation of mathematical concepts using concrete manipulatives (base-ten blocks, number lines, play currency, measurement tools), visual models, and collaborative peer discussions.
- **Reflect & Practice:** Connecting visual models to abstract mathematical symbols, solidifying procedural fluency, and applying problem-solving skills in new contexts.

1. Operations and Algebraic Thinking (NJSLS 2.OA.A.1 – 2.OA.C.4)

- **Multi-Step Word Problems:** Use addition and subtraction within 100 to solve one- and two-step word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing (using drawings and equations with an unknown number).
- **Fluency Within 20:** Fluently add and subtract within 20 using mental strategies. By the end of Grade 2, know from memory all sums of two one-digit numbers.
- **Even & Odd Numbers:** Determine whether a group of objects (up to 20) has an even or odd number of members; write an equation to express an even number as a sum of two equal addends.
- **Foundations for Multiplication:** Use addition to find the total number of objects arranged in rectangular arrays with up to 5 rows and up to 5 columns; write an equation to express the total as a sum of equal addends.

2. Number and Operations in Base Ten (NJSLS 2.NBT.A.1 – 2.NBT.B.9)

- **Three-Digit Place Value:** Understand that the three digits of a three-digit number represent amounts of hundreds, tens, and ones (e.g., 706 equals 7 hundreds, 0 tens, and 6 ones).
- **Counting & Skip-Counting:** Count within 1,000; skip-count by 5s, 10s, and 100s starting from any given number. Read and write numbers to 1,000 using base-ten numerals, number names, and expanded form.
- **Comparing Three-Digit Numbers:** Compare two three-digit numbers based on meanings of the hundreds, tens, and ones digits, using $>$, $=$, and $<$ symbols to record the results.
- **Multi-Digit Arithmetic & Fluency:** Fluently add and subtract within 100. Add up to four two-digit numbers using strategies based on place value and properties of operations. Add and subtract within 1,000 using concrete models or drawings, understanding that in adding or subtracting three-digit numbers, one adds or subtracts hundreds and hundreds, tens and tens, ones and ones.

3. Measurement, Data, and Geometry (NJSLS 2.MD.A.1 – 2.G.A.3)

Standard Measurement: Measure the length of an object by selecting and using appropriate tools such as rulers, yardsticks, meter sticks, and measuring tapes in standard units (inches, feet, centimeters, meters). Estimate lengths and compare lengths of two objects.

Length & Number Lines: Relate addition and subtraction to length by using length models and number line diagrams to solve word problems within 100.

Time & Money: Tell and write time from analog and digital clocks to the nearest five minutes, using a.m. and p.m. Solve word problems involving dollar bills, quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies, using \$ and "¢" symbols appropriately.

Data Representation: Draw a picture graph and a bar graph (with single-unit scale) to represent a data set with up to four categories. Solve simple put-together, take-apart, and compare problems using graph information.

Geometry & Fractional Partitions: Recognize and draw shapes having specified attributes, such as a given number of angles or equal faces (identify triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons, and cubes). Partition circles and rectangles into two, three, or four equal shares, describing them using words like halves, thirds, half of, or a third of, and recognize that equal shares of identical wholes need not have the same shape.

ASSESS

Assessment in Grade 2: Diagnostic Radar Network

Second-grade assessments provide continuous data tracking to prevent early learning gaps. Our district couples ****DIBELS 8th Edition**** with the interactive ****i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment****, both administered three times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring).

The i-Ready Assessment Model

The **i-Ready Diagnostic** is an online, interactive adaptive assessment in Reading and Mathematics. Because it is adaptive, the difficulty of each question shifts dynamically based on student responses. This diagnostic tool pinpoints exactly where your child excels or requires targeted instructional support, allowing teachers to customize and design specific paths of learning enrichment or intervention that match overall grade-level state benchmarks.

Assessment Domain	i-Ready Diagnostic Focus (Grade 2)	DIBELS 8th Edition Focus (Grade 2)
Phonics & Advanced Word Study	Evaluates understanding of long vowel teams, r-controlled vowels, complex multi-syllable word breakdowns, prefixes, and suffixes.	Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF): Continues tracking a student's ability to decode unfamiliar letter combinations rapidly out of context.
Oral Reading Fluency & Phrasing	Measures vocabulary comprehension, sentence structure logic, text inference, and main topic tracking.	Oral Reading Fluency (ORF): Measures the exact number of words read correctly per minute from a grade-level passage, along with accuracy and phrasing expression.
Base-Ten Operations & Logic	Evaluates double- and triple-digit addition/subtraction, place value properties up to 1000, expanded notation, and multi-step word problems.	<i>Not assessed via DIBELS.</i> Tracked via i-Ready Math algebraic data and Reveal Math performance checklists.
Measurement, Money, & Geometry	Tests time-telling to 5 minutes, money calculations, bar graph analysis, shape features, and partitioning circles/rectangles into fractions.	<i>Not assessed via DIBELS.</i> Monitored via i-Ready Math diagnostic geometry and measurement sub-domains.

Family Resource Hub & Recommended Reading

Use these vetted books and digital resources to support your second grader's academic growth at home.

Recommended Books to Read With Your Second Grader

These classic early chapter and math-centric picture books align perfectly with second-grade fluency and fractional partition goals:

- **"Mercy Watson to the Rescue"** by *Kate DiCamillo* – Excellent for building Oral Reading Fluency (ORF). The short chapter structures, advanced vocabulary, and illustrative support match second-grade benchmarks.
- **"Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday"** by *Judith Viorst* – Superb for reinforcing financial math standards, tracking coin subtraction, and exploring money management in a humorous narrative.
- **"Fraction Action"** by *Loreen Leedy* – Directly visualizes the geometric and operational standards of partitioning shapes into halves, thirds, and fourths through engaging graphic stories.

Vetted Curricular & State Web Portals

NJDOE Primary Academic Branch: Official state benchmarks, learning milestones, and parent involvement frameworks.

NJDOE Primary Education Portal

NJSLS Grade 2 ELA Standards: Full state repository detailing reading fluency metrics, comprehension goals, and paragraph grammar expectations.

NJ Student Learning Standards for ELA

NJSLS Grade 2 Math Standards: Complete framework outlining three-digit place value benchmarks and subtraction operations within 1000.

NJ Student Learning Standards for Math

Curriculum Associates i-Ready Family Hub: Access explicit family center tools to analyze diagnostic scale score reports, explore grade milestones, and view home math worksheets.

Official i-Ready Family Center