

PARENT GUIDE FOR GRADE 6 MATHEMATICS

Preparing Florida's Children for a Successful Future



All Florida students deserve to graduate high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, careers and life. Over the last several years, Florida has made strong academic gains. But, we know today's workforce requires our graduates to have stronger critical thinking, problem solving and communications skills than ever before. Higher standards that challenge and motivate our students are essential.

To address this need, education leaders across the state of Florida improved our academic content standards, creating new expectations for what students need to know and be able to do. The Florida Standards are designed to ensure that **ALL** students reach their greatest potential—whatever their path may be.

Preparing your child for success begins in kindergarten and continues as your child moves up through each grade. This guide will support parents and families with children in **sixth grade** by helping you:

- **Learn** about the Florida Standards and why they matter for your child.
- **Talk** with your child's teachers about what he/she will be learning in the classroom.
- **Support** your child's learning in practical ways at home.

LEARN ABOUT THE STANDARDS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in sixth grade—along with some important additional skills. **Sixth grade** students are learning these types of lessons:

- Understanding the concept of ratio, and use ratio language to describe a ratio relationship between two quantities. For example, "the ratio of wings to beaks in the bird house at the zoo was 2:1, because for every two wings there was one beak."
- Understanding solving an equation or inequality as a process of answering the question: Which values from a specific set, if any, make the equation or inequality true? Use substitution to determine whether a given number in a specified set makes an equation or inequality true.
- Understanding that positive and negative numbers are used together to describe quantities having opposite directions or values; use positive and negative numbers to represent quantities in real-world contexts, explaining the meaning of 1 in each situation.
- Understanding a rational number as a point on the number line. Extend number and line diagrams and coordinate axes familiar from previous grades to represent points on the line and in the plane with negative number coordinates.



Every child develops at his/her own pace. The activities in this guide are recommended age-specific guidelines for growing young minds.



Download the complete Mathematics Florida Standards for Grade 6 at www.flstandards.org

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TALK WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



When you talk to your child's teacher, don't worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics for your child. In sixth grade, you may ask your child's teacher questions such as:

- How will my child be expected to show his/her work?
- What are some areas where my child is excelling? Where does my child need extra help?

If you are concerned that your child is struggling with math, don't postpone talking with his/her teacher. Open the conversation by asking if the teacher has observed any signs of confusion or frustration. Ask if your child has mastered addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of decimals and is competent dividing fractions by fractions.

Help your child engage in "productive struggle," or, in other words, keep going if a math task seems to take too long or be too hard. Encourage honest effort, praise him/her for persevering and share in the satisfaction of eventual success.

SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

You can encourage learning mathematics at home in ways that are fun for you and your child. Try these ideas after school, on weekends and during the summer:



When traveling in the car on family trips, have your child calculate how long it will take to arrive at your destination. For example, if you are driving 225 miles, how long will it take to get there if you average 50 miles per hour? 55 miles per hour? 60 miles per hour?



To help your student become comfortable with ratios and percentages, have him/her interpret food and drink nutrition facts labels.



Investigate problem sets, games and brain teasers from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) at illuminations.nctm.org.



Have discussions about debt with your child and how those numbers are represented.



If you download apps for your child to play, be careful to choose only those with actual educational value. Common Sense Media (www.commonsensemedia.org) is a nonprofit organization focused on providing parents with reliable information about games for learning and practicing math, as well as all kinds of media you might choose, or choose to avoid, for your family.



Use numbers of interest, such as family ages, to identify prime numbers, the factors of the number and show examples of perfect squares.

Talk to your child's teacher or principal to learn more great ideas to support learning at home.

Download the complete Mathematics Florida Standards and other resources for parents at www.flstandards.org

Questions? Contact JustforParents@fldoe.org