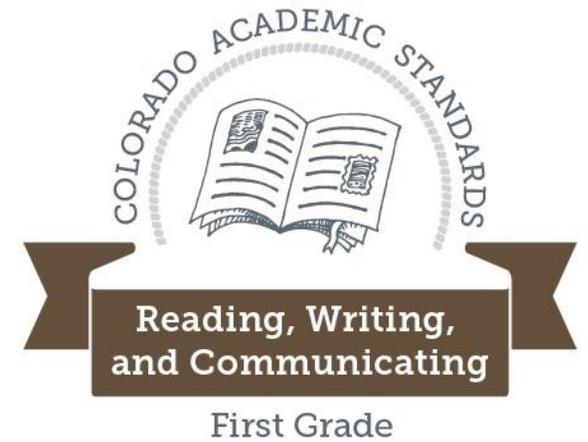


A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for First Grade Reading, Writing, and Communicating. This guide offers some learning experiences students may engage in during this school year, experiences that may also be supported at home.

Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas – emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

Reading, Writing, and Communicating for Elementary Schools (k-5)

The Reading, Writing, and Communicating standards move from developing skills in reading, writing, and communicating to applying these literacy skills to more complex texts through the elementary years. Standards at each grade emphasize skills related to speaking and collaborating with others as students work with literature and informational readings and participate in individual and group research projects.

Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Vince Puzick, Reading, Writing, and Communicating Content Specialist at 303-319-9519, Puzick_v@cde.state.co.us



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At the end of
First Grade,
students can...



**Reading, Writing,
and Communicating**

First Grade



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Reading, Writing, and Communicating Learning Expectations for First Grade

Oral Expression and Listening

Identify specific sounds in words and experiment with those sounds (changing ch- in chip to sh- to make ship, for example); expand their spoken vocabulary; demonstrate how words, gestures, and actions are used to give and receive information.

Reading for All Purposes

Apply letter sounds (short and long vowels) and letter combinations (sh-, ch-, -tion) to decode words (sound out and pronounce); understand word structure (how words are put together) and word families (words that contain -ack: attack, snack, black, for example); fluently read (with appropriate speed, accuracy, and expression) and comprehend (understand) a variety of stories, informational writing (“how to” books, instructions), and opinion pieces (favorite movies, foods).

Writing and Composition

Explore the writing process (plan, write, clean-up, share) to develop ideas for their own writing; use correct spelling and conventions (capital letters, punctuation) in their writing

Research and Reasoning

Use different resources to locate information and answer questions; ask questions and gather information as part of a research process

Throughout the First Grade, you may find students...

- Applying phonics rules (sounds of letters) to decode (sound out and pronounce) one- and two-syllable words; reading with purpose, understanding, and fluency (the right speed, accuracy, and expression); recognizing punctuation and grammar in books and stories (end punctuation followed by capital letter); asking and answering questions about key ideas and details to understand stories and informational books; using text features (headings, captions, table of contents) to comprehend (understand) the reading.
- Working with fellow students to discuss different readings and topics; responding to the ideas of others by asking/answering questions; actively listening by making eye contact and demonstrating positive body posture.
- Comparing and contrasting the adventures of characters in stories; identifying similarities and differences between two texts on the same topic; explaining how illustrations and visuals work with the words in a book or story; identifying how an author supports ideas.
- Writing a story with interesting details; writing to explain a topic; writing to state an opinion about a topic and using supporting details; talking about their writing with others to improve writing; using correct grammar and mechanics (complete sentences, end punctuation, correct upper- and lower-case letters).