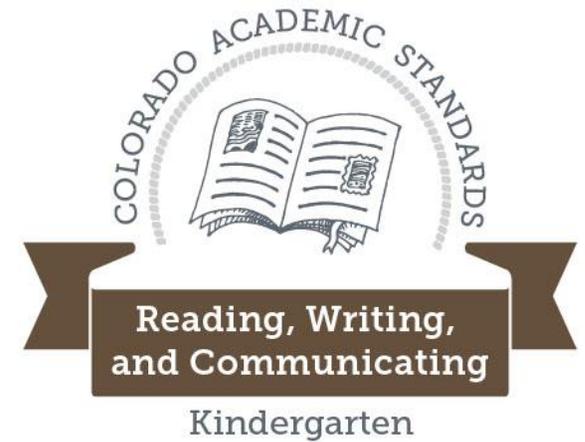


A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



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 Kindergarten 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?

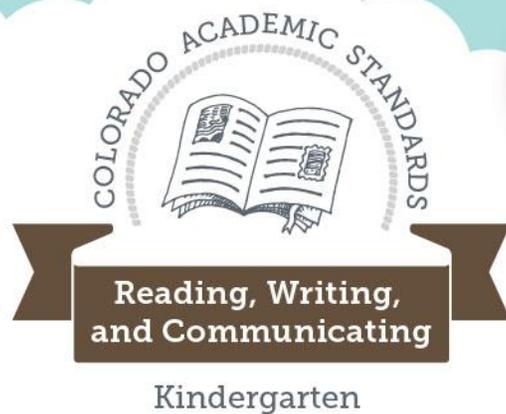
- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Vince Puzick, Reading, Writing, and Communicating Content Specialist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



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At the end of
Kindergarten,
students can...



Reading, Writing, and Communicating Learning Expectations for Kindergarten

Oral Expression and Listening

Use effective oral language (vocabulary and grammar) and non-verbal communication skills (gestures, expressions); use their voice to show phonemic awareness (knowledge of the sounds of language, such as long and short vowel sounds, consonants); show how vocal sounds produce words (the word “cat” has three sounds – /k/-/a/-/t/).

Reading for All Purposes

Demonstrate knowledge of all the letters of the alphabet; use letter sounds to decode (sound out and pronounce) words on the printed page; show understanding of the “concept of print” (read from left to right, letters make words, words make sentences, books have a front and back cover).

Writing and Composition

Share ideas in their writing; demonstrate knowledge of different types of writing that people do and why people write (to tell stories, to provide information, to try to explain the world around them, to express opinions, likes, and dislikes); use correct mechanics and conventions (capital letters and end punctuation) in their writing; use a combination of pictures and words to write stories and books.

Research and Reasoning

Use different resources to find information to answer their own questions of interest about a topic; ask good questions to become a better reader and listener.

Throughout Kindergarten, you may find students...

- Showing they understand print concepts; decoding (sounding out and pronouncing) familiar words.
- Asking and answering questions about main ideas and details in readings (understanding what the reading is about); identifying character, setting, and events in a story; identifying main points in informational texts.
- Responding to stories and books by asking questions; sharing understandings with others; using drawings to respond to readings.
- Talking about the pictures and visuals in books and how images connect with words; naming the author and illustrator of a book; comparing and contrasting characters in familiar stories.
- Using drawing, dictating, and writing to tell a story, to explain a topic, or to state an opinion; using resources (watching a science experiment, listening to books read-aloud, watching videos) to answer questions about a topic; talking with others about their writing.