

PARENT GUIDE FOR GRADE 7 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 **seventh 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 seventh grade—along with some important additional skills. **Seventh grade** students are learning these types of lessons:

- Computing unit rates associated with ratios of fractions, including ratios of lengths, areas and other quantities measured in like or different units.
- Recognizing and represent proportional relationships between quantities.
- Using proportional relationships to solve multi-step ratio and percent problems. Examples: simple interest tax, markups and markdowns, gratuities and commissions, fees, percent increase and decrease, percent error.



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

- Solving real-world and mathematical problems involving the four operations with rational numbers.
- Using variables to represent quantities in real-world or mathematical problems, and construct simple equations and inequalities to solve problems by reasoning about the quantities.



Download the complete Mathematics Florida Standards for Grade 7 at www.flstandards.org

#FLStandards
Join the conversation



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 seventh 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:



Ask your child to help you with comparison shopping. For example, ask your child whether three pairs of socks for \$1.58 each or six pairs for \$6.49 is a better buy based on the cost per pair.



If your child is into sports, encourage him/her to keep track of a favorite player or team, or to predict changes in the statistics of players or teams based on their performances in recent games.



Ask your child to calculate how much money would be saved from various sale discounts offered in advertisements, coupons and other special offers.



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



If you download apps for your child to play, be careful to choose only those with actual educational value, such as Common Sense Media (www.commonsensemedia.org).



Play games of chance and logic.



Discuss which containers have the greatest volume and experiment to verify.

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