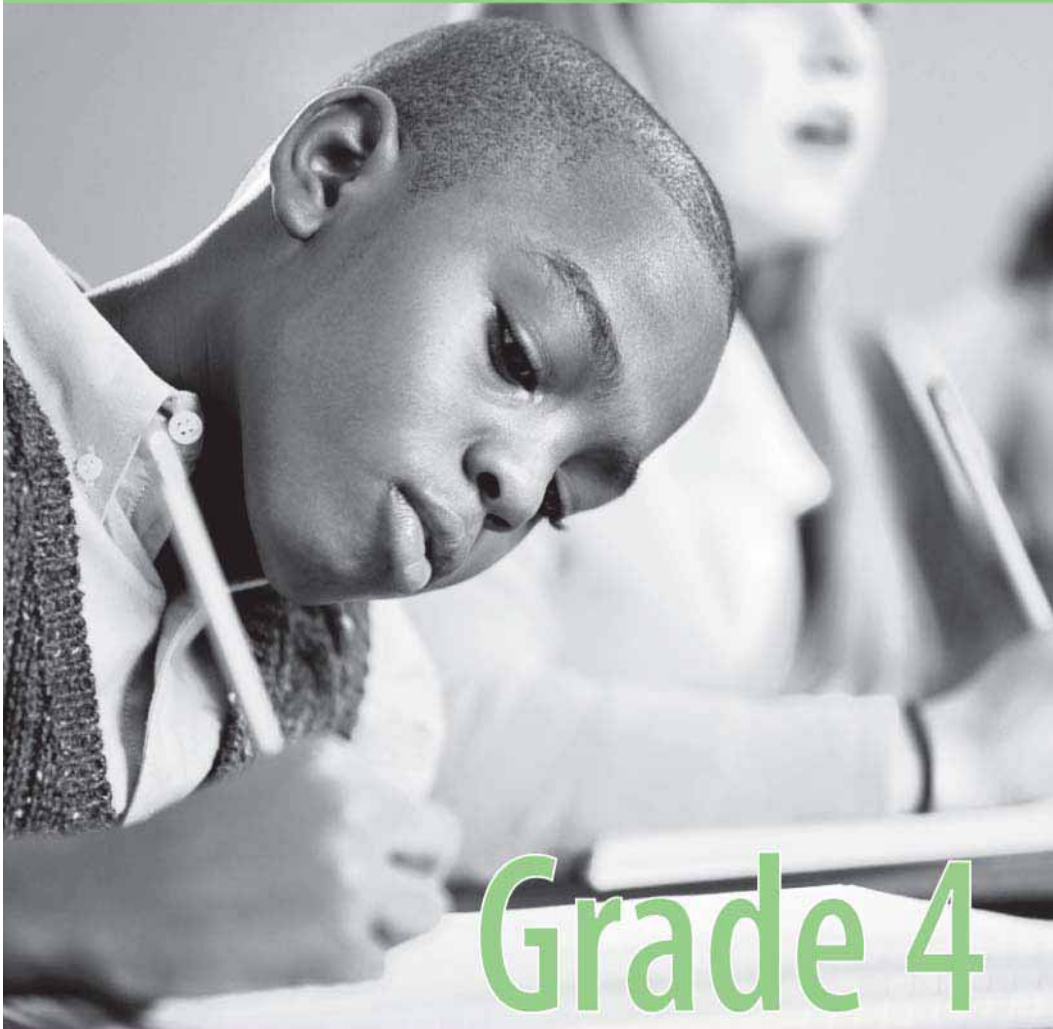


Just for Parents

A Guide to the Kansas Curricular Standards



Grade 4

Provided by the Kansas State Department of Education



October, 2007

Introduction

This booklet is intended to help you understand what is required for fourth grade students to meet the educational standards set by the Kansas State Board of Education. The Kansas State Board of Education has set high standards for all students in the subject areas of reading, mathematics, science, history and government, economics, geography, and writing. The standards are general statements of what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. Schools use the standards as a guide for what they teach.

To see that students are meeting the education standards set by the Kansas State Board, tests were developed from the standards adopted by the State Board. All accredited schools in the state are required to administer the tests, which are known as state assessments. The questions included on the assessments represent the knowledge students are expected to have in each subject area, but do not include every item in the state

standards. This booklet only includes those items covered on the state assessments at the fourth grade level in reading and mathematics.

For the 2007-2008 school year, state assessments will be given in the fourth grade in the subject areas of reading, mathematics, and science. Your school will give the fourth grade assessments during a Kansas State Board established assessment period. Your school will select the specific assessment period based on the school's schedule.

The knowledge and skills assessed by the fourth grade assessment may not have been learned entirely in the fourth grade, but are expected to have been a part of your child's studies in the grades prior to and including Grade 4.

All students are expected to take part in the state assessments. To include students with special needs who cannot benefit from taking the general assessments, the state has modified and alternate assessments. Both the

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modified and alternate assessments are based on the general education standards. The modified and alternate assessments are for students with disabilities so significant that they cannot participate in the general assessments. About 3 percent of the student population will qualify for the modified and alternate assessments.

Extended curricular standards have been developed for students who participate in the alternate assessment. Alternate assessments are intended for students with the most severe disabilities and are designed to assess the student's achievement of the standards at the appropriate level of

complexity. It is expected that less than 1 percent of the student population will be eligible to participate in the alternate assessments.

The Kansas State Board of Education's mission of helping all students learn is shared by Kansas schools. Kansas educators are eager partners with parents and caregivers in the education and development of the children of our state. If you have questions about your child's learning, development, or progress in school, please talk with your child's teacher, school principal, or school counselor.



Mathematics

Kansas students are expected to know selected skills in math and to display those skills at different levels of complexity depending upon their grade level. In the fourth grade, students are expected to know and be able to do the following in math:

- Express numerical values in writing using numbers and words.
- Identify and write numbers in expanded notation from hundredths place through one hundred thousands place (e.g., 0.01 to 100,000)
- Understand whole number properties (such as zero added to any number does not change the value of the number, multiplying a number by one does not change the value of the number, and the order in which you multiply or add does not affect the answer) and use them to help solve problems.
- Identify multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction fact families; (example of a fact family: $3 \times 5 = 15$; $5 \times 3 = 15$; $15 \div 3 = 5$; $15 \div 5 = 3$).
- Solve problems that require the use of multiplication or division facts to find an unknown value, as well as problems involving minutes, hours, days and weeks.
- Identify and state the rule for a number pattern using a table of values.
- Use a variety of measurement devices such as a ruler, yard or meter stick, tape measure, bathroom or food scale, measuring cups, thermometer, stopwatch, etc.
- Describe the movement of simple shapes in space (ex: a reflection/flip, rotation/turn, and translation/slide), such

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as determining how a couch will fit through a doorway.

- Use maps and grids with whole number coordinates.
- Organize and display data using tables, charts, and graphs.
- Solve a variety of problems with money amounts using addition, subtraction, and multiplication.
- Express the relationship between at least two numbers using objects, pictures, words, tables, and graphs (ex: roll two die and use the two numbers rolled to write a multiplication equation such as $4 \times 6 = 24$).
- Identify a variety of figures (circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, ellipses, rhombi, octagons, hexagons, pentagons, or trapezoids) from a picture.
- Use estimation to determine if stated

measurements for length, width, weight, volume, etc., are reasonable.

- Find mean (the sum of the values divided by the total number of values), median (the middle number), mode (most common), and range (difference between the greatest and the least) for a group of two-digit numbers.



Reading

By the time your child has completed the fourth grade, the things he or she will be expected to know and be able to do in reading are:

- Use clues from the surrounding words to determine the meaning of an unknown word or phrase.
- Understand how adding beginnings or endings to words change the meaning of the words.
- Understand how information located in titles, graphs and charts, table of contents, and pictures/illustrations can assist in understanding the meaning of the text.
- Make inferences and draw conclusions that are supported by the material read.
- Identify how the author has organized information in the material read.
- Explain how topics, themes, problems, characters, or relationships are alike or different.
- Understand how one or more things can have an effect on the outcome of another.
- Explain main ideas or events in a story and provide supporting details from the material read.
- Understand and explain what a story is about.
- Understand and identify the author's purpose in writing a given text.
- Understand the difference between fact and opinion.
- Identify the characters in a story, tell about them and explain their actions and the consequences of those actions.
- Describe the location and time of a story.
- Identify or describe the major conflict in a story and explain how it is resolved.

Helping Your Child Succeed

Children learn many new skills in the fourth grade. The more time they have to practice and repeat these skills, the more likely they are to fully grasp them and carry them into their future learning opportunities. You can help your child by being aware of what he or she is learning in school and creating opportunities for your child to practice skills at home.

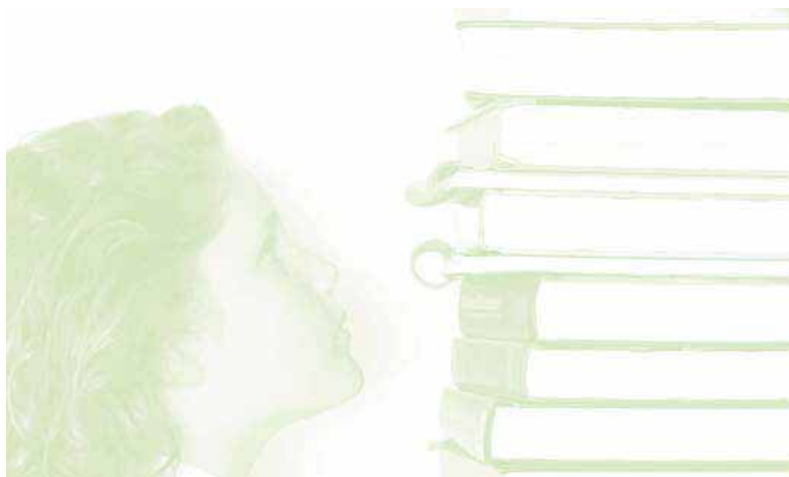
Helping with Reading

You can help your child practice reading skills by keeping reading material in the home. Serve as a good role model for your child by allowing him or her to see

you spending time reading. Perhaps you can read appropriate material from the newspaper to your child over breakfast in the morning, or set aside a time each day when you read together or share with each other what you are reading about.

Ask your child to read to younger siblings, relatives, or friends. You may want to have your child scan the newspaper sale ads to help you find good deals before you go grocery shopping.

You can also devise activities to help your child learn specific skills. To help your child better understand word structure, cut colored



Helping Your Child Succeed

pieces of paper in the shape of train engines, cars and cabooses. On the engine pieces, write different prefixes (beginnings of words), such as anti-, dis-, ex-, etc. On the train car pieces, write root words, and on the caboose pieces write different suffixes (word endings), such as -en, -ful, -less, etc. Have your child put the various pieces together to create different words. Check the work to make sure “real” words are being created.

Sticky notes can be very useful in helping your child learn a variety of reading skills. While reading, have your child use sticky notes to mark the different elements of text structure. For instance, have your child place a sticky note on the portions of text that describe cause and effect. As an example, you may mark passages in “Jack and the Beanstalk” where Jack’s mother throws the magic beans out the window as a cause, and the appearance of a giant beanstalk in the yard the next morning as the effect. Use a different color sticky note to mark passages that

show problem and solution. For instance, in “Jack and the Beanstalk,” the problem is that Jack and his mother are very poor. The solution is getting the goose that lays golden eggs.

Some other text structures that can be identified include description and sequence. Description would be text that states the main idea and any supporting details of the main idea. Sequence describes the order in which things happen, for instance “first John rode his bicycle to the store to buy dog food; then he went home and fed his dog, and then he was able to play baseball with his friends.”

You can be more specific in this activity by having your child place a sticky note with a frowning face where he or she identifies a problem, and one with a happy face where a solution is identified. A sticky note with a baseball bat can indicate where a cause is identified, and one with a baseball can be used to indicate where the corresponding effect is located.

Helping Your Child Succeed

When appropriate, have your child explain to you what conflict is being described in the reading material. Then, have your child read on to determine what the resolution to the conflict is.

A book scavenger hunt can be used to help your child learn where to find the table of contents, index, glossary, and other features in books. Include headings and subheadings in your scavenger hunt, as well as bold type and italics, charts, graphs, and illustrations.

Helping with Math

Children can also be helped to master math skills by allowing them to assist

with some household duties. Allow your child to help with simple household finances. For instance, allow your child to review your grocery bills for a few weeks in a row. Ask your child to share what he or she learned, such as, did a family gathering at your home have an affect on your grocery bill? What was it? If your child receives an allowance, have him or her determine how long it would take to save for a desired item, such as a new bicycle or skateboard.

Your child can learn about measurement by helping you with household chores. Allow your child to measure out the ingredients as you're cooking dinner or baking. Let your child



Helping Your Child Succeed

help with measurements when you're working on a building project or sewing.

When planning your next vacation or trip, let your child help. Asking your child to find cities on a map will assist in learning how to use a grid system. Also let your child determine how many miles there are between your city and the city you will be visiting.

There are simple ways to help your child understand some of the rules related to addition and multiplication. For instance, as you're setting the table for dinner, use the spoons and forks to help your child understand that the

number of spoons plus the number of forks is the same as the number of forks plus the number of spoons. The same situation can be used to help your child understand that if you took the group of spoons and multiplied that group by one, you would have the same group of spoons.

You can even help your child learn simple rules of geometry at home. For instance, in the fourth grade your child will be asked to understand and demonstrate transformational geometry. It sounds difficult, but transformations in geometry are something your child likely demonstrates every day. For

Free Tutoring

HomeworkKansas provides expert tutoring in core subjects to every Kansas student, Grades 4 -12. HomeworkKansas, a service of the State Library of Kansas, allows students to connect to an expert tutor for one-to-one homework help. Tutoring is provided by a live tutor via the Internet. Students simply go to the HomeworkKansas website at www.homeworkkansas.org and enter their Kansas library card number. Students can register and receive a Kansas library card number instantaneously at the same site. To better match students and their homework needs with the best available tutor, students are asked for their grade level and their homework topic. The student then enters the online classroom and, using chat technology and an online whiteboard, the tutoring session begins. All tutors are certified and have completed a third party background check. Tutors are available seven days a week from 4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Sunday – Thursday in Spanish.

Helping Your Child Succeed

instance, a reflection is better known as a flip, like when you flip a pancake or a hamburger during cooking. A rotation is just a turn, like the turning of a doorknob, and a translation is a slide, like when you slide the salt shaker across the kitchen table. Using these simple, everyday acts can help make the concepts more understandable to your child.

Consider toys that will assist your child in developing math skills and grasping math concepts, such as dice, puzzles and blocks. Appropriate games include Mastermind, Mr. Super Mind, Othello and Tangrams. Also, monitor your child's

television watching. Too much time watching television takes time away from other activities that will help your child build math and reading skills.

On test days, make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and wakes early enough in the morning to eat a good breakfast. Most of all, offer your child your encouragement and confidence in his or her ability to do well.



For More Information

More detailed information on the Kansas Curricular Standards and the state assessments is available on the Kansas State Department of Education website at www.ksde.org.

If you have questions regarding standards and assessments, you may contact the Kansas State Department of Education at 785-296-3201.





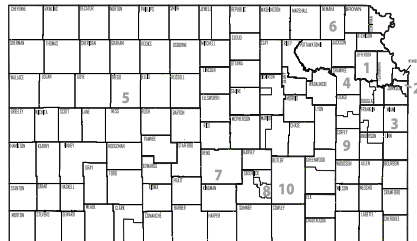
Education Priorities for a New Century

Ensure that all students meet or exceed high academic standards and are prepared for their next steps (e.g., the world of work and/or post-secondary education)

- Redesign the delivery system to meet our students' changing needs
 - Develop and implement policy on academic/vocational integration
 - Identify, replicate, and promote best practices that can be targeted to specific populations (e.g., high schools; middle school reading; early childhood)
 - Study and clarify regulations and identify challenges
 - Examine the definition of a classroom in a redesigned system
- Provide an effective educator in every classroom
 - Develop a policy on alternative compensation
 - Identify obstacles
 - Assess the effectiveness of current professional development practices
 - Identify, replicate, and promote best practice in teacher preparation and professional development
 - Improve the support system for teachers
 - Develop recruitment strategies for future teachers
 - Assess and improve the alternate licensure program
 - Promote loving, safe, supportive and nurturing environments
- Ensure a visionary and effective leader in every school
 - Identify, replicate, and promote best practices in preparation and performance
 - Identify and grow visionary leaders focused on learning
 - Study the impact of current leadership programs
- Improve communication with all constituent groups and policy partners
 - Align pre-K through 16 systems of support in collaboration with identified partners (e.g., Kansas Board of Regents, Social and Rehabilitative Services, etc.)
 - Develop a structure for regularly communicating about education with the legislative leadership of both parties with a focus on areas of common interest
 - Keep the public informed on key policy areas
 - Resume focus group meetings in each board member district and periodic meetings with the media
 - Improve communication of relevant information with school faculty

Kansas State Board of Education
Adopted 9/2007

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