

## English Language Arts (ELA) & Literacy Overview

Building the stamina and skills to read challenging fiction, nonfiction, and other materials is fundamental in 4th grade. Your child will continue to learn about the world as well as build vocabulary skills by reading more complicated stories and poems from different cultures and a range of books on history, science, art, and music. Fourth grade students will also make important strides in their ability to explain plainly and in detail what a book says — both explicitly and what is implied from its details. By 4th grade, your child will be writing effective summaries, book reports, and descriptions of characters or events that use correct grammar and punctuation.

### Fourth Grade Skills:

- Describing the basic elements of stories – such as characters, events, and settings – by drawing on specific details in the text
- Playing close attention to key features of informational books and articles: these include understanding the main and supporting ideas; being able to compare and contrast information; and explaining how the author uses facts, details, and evidence to support particular points
- Comparing ideas, characters, events, and settings in stories and myths from different cultures
- Writing summaries or opinions about topics supported with a set of well-organized facts, details, and examples
- Independently conducting short research projects on different aspects of a topic using evidence from books and the Internet
- Paraphrasing and responding to information presented in discussions, such as comparing and contrasting ideas and analyzing evidence that speakers use to support particular points
- Reporting orally on a topic or telling a story with enough facts and details
- Writing complete sentences with correct capitalization and spelling
- Relating words that are common in reading to words with similar meanings (synonyms) and to their opposites (antonyms)

## Talking with Your Child’s Teacher

Keep the conversation focused. When you talk to the teacher, focus the conversation on the most important topics. In 4th grade, these include:

- Comprehending a range of grade-level stories, poems, and informational texts such as biographies, articles, or guidebooks about history, science, or the arts
- Building understanding of relationships between words and nuances in word meanings – synonyms, antonyms, idioms – and using this knowledge to convey ideas precisely
- Doing arithmetic and solving word problems with multi-digit numbers
- Doing arithmetic and solving word problems with fractions

Ask to see a sample of your child’s work. Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?

### Learning Does Not End in the Classroom

Children need help and support at home to succeed in their studies. Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time *every day* when your child can concentrate on reading, writing, and math uninterrupted by friends, brothers or sisters, or other distractions. Try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. By taking these small steps, you will be helping your child become successful both in and outside the classroom.

*Martin County School District 2014*



## MARTIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Fourth Grade Florida Standards



The Florida Standards (FS) provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the skills people need for success in college and careers.

With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.



*In 2014, the Florida State Board of Education adopted the Florida Standards.*

## Key Features of the Standards

### Reading:

“Reading is an active and complex process that involves understanding written text; developing and interpreting meaning; and using meaning as appropriate to type of text, purpose, and situation.” (NAEP Framework, 2009)

Reading is the single most important educational skill students will learn. As students move up in grade levels, text demands increase significantly.

### Text complexity and the growth of comprehension:

The reading standards place equal emphasis on the sophistication of what students read and the skill with which they read. The standards define a grade-by-grade “staircase” of increasing text complexity that rises from beginning reading to the college and career readiness level. Whatever they are reading, students must show a steadily growing ability to discern more from and make fuller use of text, including: making an increasing number of connections among ideas and between texts, considering a wider range of textual evidence, and becoming more sensitive to inconsistencies, ambiguities, and poor reasoning in texts.

### Writing:

*Text types, responding to reading, and research*

The standards acknowledge the fact that whereas some writing skills, such as the ability to plan, revise, edit, and publish are applicable to many types of writing, other skills are more properly defined in terms of specific writing types: arguments, informative/explanatory texts, and narratives. The standards stress the importance of the writing-reading connection by requiring students to draw upon and write about evidence from literary and informational texts. Because of the centrality of writing to most forms of inquiry, research standards are prominently included in the standards and skills important to research are infused throughout.



### Speaking and Listening:

*Flexible communication and collaboration*

The speaking and listening standards require students to develop a range of broadly useful oral communication and interpersonal skills including but not limited to skills necessary for formal presentations. Students must learn to work together, express and listen carefully to ideas, integrate information from oral, visual, quantitative, and media sources, evaluate what they hear, use media and visual displays strategically to help achieve communicative purposes, and adapt speech to context and task.

### Language:

*Conventions, effective use, and vocabulary*

The language standards include the essential “rules” of standard written and spoken English, but they also approach language as a matter of craft and informed choice among alternatives. The vocabulary standards focus on understanding words and phrases, their relationships, and their nuances and on acquiring new vocabulary, particularly general academic and domain-specific words and phrases.

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- **School Grades:**  
<http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/>
  - **FSA Resources:**  
<http://www.fsassessments.org/resources/>
  - **FSA Training Tests:**  
<http://www.fsassessments.org/training-tests>

**FLORIDA STANDARDS**  
COLLEGE & CAREER READY



## Mathematics Overview

In 4th grade, your child will gain important new skills while continuing to build on what he or she learned the previous year. One of the main areas studied in 4th grade is arithmetic and applying it to solve problems. This is an important life skill, and your child should make significant strides in this area during the year. Your child will also build knowledge and skills with fractions to prepare for mastering this topic in 5th and 6th grades. These skills will help ensure your child is ready for algebra and advanced math.

Fourth Grade Skills:

- Using whole-number arithmetic to solve word problems, including problems with remainders and problems with measurements
- Adding and subtracting whole numbers quickly and accurately (numbers up to 1 million)
- Multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers in simple cases (e.g., multiplying  $1,638 \times 7$  or  $24 \times 17$ , and dividing 6,966 by 6)
- Understanding and applying equivalent fractions (e.g., recognizing that  $\frac{1}{4}$  is less than  $\frac{3}{8}$  because  $\frac{2}{8}$  is less than  $\frac{3}{8}$ )
- Adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions in simple cases (such as  $2\frac{3}{4} - 1\frac{1}{4}$  or  $3 \times \frac{5}{8}$ ), and solving related word problems
- Understanding simple decimals in terms of fractions (e.g., rewriting 0.62 as  $\frac{62}{100}$ )
- Measuring angles and finding unknown angles in a diagram