

# Higher Expectations **GREATHER SUCCESS**

Alaska Standards for English  
Language Arts and Mathematics



# Building skills

in reading, writing,  
speaking and listening  
across the curriculum

Alaska's English language arts standards build important reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. These are essential skills for all students in daily life, the workplace, and education after high school.

In addition to reading literature, your students will read texts that build knowledge in science, social studies, and other subjects. Students will read challenging texts, answer questions that require them to refer to what they have read, build a strong vocabulary, and use technology to express themselves.

## In third grade, your students will have the skills to...

Read two sources of information about what it's like to be an astronaut. Answer questions such as why it is hard to be an astronaut, using information from both sources. Choose which source best tells how floating in space affects the astronauts, giving examples. Write several paragraphs about the job of being an astronaut. Support the main idea with details from the sources.

## In fifth grade, your students will have the skills to...

Read a 9-paragraph article about hermit crabs. Use details from the text to explain, in their own words, how scientists use artificial shells as shelters for crab. Define the word "adapt" and explain how crabs have adapted. Explain, in their own words, why the article refers to crabs as nature's recyclers. Choose words in a paragraph that mean the same as "artificial." Match 8 causes mentioned in the text with 8 effects.

## As high school juniors, your students will have the skills to...

Read a complex text, such as about the science of brain wave patterns. Choose the best definition for a key word in the text. Choose the sentence that best supports a conclusion. Choose two details from the text and support the conclusion in their own words. Choose the phrase that best identifies the author's premise. Choose statements that would challenge the premise.

Read four sources about a topic in social studies or current affairs. Answer questions about the topic, in their own words. Provide two pieces of information from sources for each side of the argument. Write an argumentative letter on the topic.



# Building

math facts,  
mathematical  
understanding,  
and real-world  
problem solving



Alaska's standards for math in kindergarten through fifth grade provide a foundation in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. In middle school and high school your students will be ready for geometry, algebra, probability and statistics.

Students will focus equally on math facts, mathematic understanding, and applying math in real-world problem solving. Teachers in each grade will concentrate on key math concepts and skills so your student will have time to master important ideas.

Here are examples of what your student will be able to do...



## In third grade, solve problems like this...

David wants to create the L-shaped desk shown. He decides to buy two rectangular desks and put them together. Insert numbers into the boxes to show the missing dimensions. Using a line, divide the diagram into two desks. Make each desk 5 feet by 2 feet. What is the total area of the L-shaped desk?

A.

B.

Total area:  ft<sup>2</sup>

## In fifth grade, solve problems like this...

Jen measured the growth of a sunflower.

- In week one, it grew  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches
- In week two, it grew  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches
- In week three, it grew  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches

How much did the sunflower grow in the three weeks?

- (a)  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches
- (b)  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches
- (c) 8 inches
- (d)  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches

## In eighth grade, solve problems like this...

Six friends are going to buy pizza. Their choices are to buy 2 medium 10-inch diameter pizzas for \$7.00 each, or 1 large 14-inch diameter pizza for \$15.00. What choice gives them the most pizza for their money? Explain your answer.

# Resources and Tips

**Talk with your child's teacher. Some questions you may want to ask are:**

- Is my child reading on grade level?
- How is my child's writing?
- Has my child memorized the math facts?
- Is my child at the level where he or she should be at this point of the school year?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help my child improve in this area?
- Where is my child excelling? How can I support this success?



## **Here are some ways you can help your child in English language arts:**

- Provide quiet time and space for your child to read independently.
- Ask your child what topics, events or activities he or she likes and then look for books, magazines or other materials that will motivate your child to read.
- Encourage your child to write letters or keep a journal.

### **Alaska's standards are at:**

<http://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessment/2012AKStandards.html>

## **Here are some ways you can help your child in math:**

- Play math games with your elementary student. For example, using a deck of cards, deal two cards and ask your child to add, subtract, multiply or divide the two numbers.
- Use everyday objects that allow your child to explore the concept of fractions. For example, have your child divide a candy bar evenly among three people.
- Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.

