



WHAT 1ST GRADE KIDS SHOULD KNOW

1st Grade SURGE Standards™

Skills Used for Readiness, Growth & Excellence

A colorful, family-friendly guide to the important knowledge, skills, and learning habits children build in 1st Grade.

START STRONG. SURGE AHEAD. ACHIEVE.™

The SURGE Standards™

Skills Used for Readiness, Growth & Excellence

S	Skills Build the essential academic and learning skills students need for success.
U	Used Apply learning through reading, writing, mathematics, investigation, discussion, and problem solving.
R	Readiness Strengthen grade-level foundations that prepare students for the next challenge.
G	Growth Practice, feedback, reflection, and persistence help every learner make progress.
E	Excellence Build confidence, independence, and the ability to transfer learning to new situations.

For families: These standards are written in everyday language as guiding examples of important grade-level learning. They are informed by Texas grade-level expectations and are not a replacement for the official TEKS.

Reading, Language & Writing

READ IT • THINK IT • WRITE IT

Reading & Comprehension

A 1st Grade SURGE reader is learning to...

- Decode regularly spelled one-syllable words using letter-sound relationships and common phonics patterns.
- Recognize common high-frequency words and read grade-level text with growing accuracy and fluency.
- Retell stories in sequence and describe characters, setting, problem, and important events.
- Identify the main topic or central idea and supporting details in informational text.
- Ask and answer questions about a text and use information from the text to explain answers.
- Recognize basic features of poems, stories, informational texts, and other familiar genres.

Writing & Communication

A 1st Grade SURGE writer and speaker is learning to...

- Write complete simple sentences that communicate a clear idea.
- Use capitals at the beginning of sentences and for names and use appropriate ending punctuation.
- Spell common words and use sound-spelling patterns when attempting unfamiliar words.
- Plan and create short personal, imaginative, and informational pieces.
- Add relevant details to make writing clearer for a reader.
- Listen, take turns, ask questions, and speak clearly during classroom conversations.

Mathematics

MODEL IT • SOLVE IT • EXPLAIN IT

Mathematical Thinking

A 1st Grade SURGE mathematician is learning to...

- Read, write, compare, and represent whole numbers to at least 120.
- Use tens and ones to explain place value and compose and decompose numbers.
- Add and subtract within 20 using objects, drawings, equations, and efficient strategies.
- Solve one-step addition and subtraction problems in meaningful situations.
- Identify, compose, and describe common two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes.
- Measure and compare length, tell time to the hour and half hour, identify coins, and organize simple data.

Math SURGE habit: Strong mathematicians choose strategies, represent their thinking, explain how they solved a problem, and check whether an answer is reasonable.

Science & Social Studies

EXPLORE IT • DISCOVER IT • CONNECT IT

Science Explorers

Students investigate the natural world by learning to...

- Ask questions, make observations, and safely participate in simple investigations.
- Describe and classify objects using observable properties.
- Explore how pushes and pulls affect the motion of objects and recognize forms of energy in everyday life.
- Observe and describe weather and patterns in the natural world and sky.
- Identify basic needs, parts, and characteristics of plants and animals.
- Describe ways living things depend on their surroundings.

History, Geography & Citizenship

Students connect people, places, government, economics, and history by learning to...

- Explain why families, classrooms, and communities have rules and responsibilities.
- Recognize characteristics of good citizens and the roles of leaders and community helpers.
- Use calendars, simple timelines, and words such as past, present, and future.
- Use maps and location words to describe places and geographic features.
- Distinguish needs from wants and explain basic ideas about earning, spending, and saving.
- Recognize important state and national symbols, customs, historical figures, and celebrations.

Ready-to-Learn Skills

CONFIDENCE + INDEPENDENCE + PERSEVERANCE

Academic growth in 1st Grade also depends on habits that help students become confident and increasingly independent learners.

- Follow multi-step classroom directions and routines.
- Read or work independently for increasing periods of time.
- Explain thinking using words, pictures, examples, or models.
- Organize materials and complete classroom tasks.
- Work cooperatively, take turns, and respond respectfully to others.
- Ask for help, accept feedback, and keep trying when work is challenging.

The 1st Grade SURGE Check

- Recognize common high-frequency words and read grade-level text with growing accuracy and fluency.
- Identify the main topic or central idea and supporting details in informational text.
- Write complete simple sentences that communicate a clear idea.
- Add and subtract within 20 using objects, drawings, equations, and efficient strategies.
- Solve one-step addition and subtraction problems in meaningful situations.
- Ask questions, make observations, and safely participate in simple investigations.
- Explain why families, classrooms, and communities have rules and responsibilities.
- Ask for help, accept feedback, and keep trying when work is challenging.

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Family note: Children develop at different rates. Use the SURGE Standards to celebrate growth, notice strengths, and identify skills that may benefit from enrichment, review, or additional support.