



WHAT 4TH GRADE KIDS SHOULD KNOW

4th 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 4th 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 4th Grade SURGE reader is learning to...

- Read increasingly complex grade-level texts fluently and use context and word parts to determine meaning.
- Determine theme or central idea and summarize using important supporting evidence.
- Make inferences and support conclusions with specific evidence from the text.
- Analyze plot, characters, setting, point of view, text structure, author's purpose, and craft.
- Compare ideas, themes, information, and organizational choices across texts and genres.
- Distinguish important information from less relevant details when summarizing and responding.

Writing & Communication

A 4th Grade SURGE writer and speaker is learning to...

- Plan and develop organized multi-paragraph compositions for a clear purpose and audience.
- Use effective introductions, logical organization, transitions, supporting details, and conclusions.
- Revise for development, organization, word choice, and clarity and edit grade-appropriate conventions.
- Write literary, informational, argumentative, and correspondence pieces.
- Use precise vocabulary, varied sentences, and an appropriate voice.
- Research a focused topic using multiple sources and organize findings for a reader or audience.

Mathematics

MODEL IT • SOLVE IT • EXPLAIN IT

Mathematical Thinking

A 4th Grade SURGE mathematician is learning to...

- Read, write, compare, and round whole numbers through 1,000,000,000.
- Add and subtract whole numbers and decimals and multiply multi-digit whole numbers accurately.
- Divide larger whole numbers by one-digit divisors using models, strategies, and algorithms.
- Compare fractions, generate equivalent fractions, and solve meaningful problems involving fractions.
- Measure and classify angles and solve perimeter and area problems.
- Represent and interpret data and solve multi-step problems involving measurement, money, and numerical relationships.

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...

- Design investigations, use tools safely, measure accurately, analyze data, and support explanations with evidence.
- Classify matter and investigate mixtures, solutions, and physical changes.
- Explore forms of energy, electrical circuits, forces, and motion.
- Investigate Earth's surface, resources, weather patterns, and relationships involving the Sun and Earth.
- Describe structures, behaviors, traits, and life cycles that help organisms survive.
- Model food webs and explain how changes can affect an ecosystem.

History, Geography & Citizenship

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

- Explain important people, events, regions, and eras in Texas history.
- Analyze how geography and natural resources influenced settlement, economic activity, and development in Texas.
- Describe purposes and basic structures of government and characteristics of responsible citizenship.
- Explain economic activities, entrepreneurship, resources, and free-enterprise concepts.
- Identify contributions and perspectives of diverse groups in Texas history and culture.
- Analyze maps, timelines, graphs, primary sources, and other evidence to draw historical conclusions.

Ready-to-Learn Skills

CONFIDENCE + INDEPENDENCE + PERSEVERANCE

Academic growth in 4th Grade also depends on habits that help students become confident and increasingly independent learners.

- Support answers with specific evidence instead of guesses.
- Manage longer assignments and prepare for assessments over multiple days.
- Take useful notes and identify key information.
- Use teacher and peer feedback to improve drafts and problem-solving strategies.
- Contribute responsibly during collaborative work and discussions.
- Monitor progress toward academic goals and adjust strategies when needed.

The 4th Grade SURGE Check

- Determine theme or central idea and summarize using important supporting evidence.
- Analyze plot, characters, setting, point of view, text structure, author's purpose, and craft.
- Plan and develop organized multi-paragraph compositions for a clear purpose and audience.
- Divide larger whole numbers by one-digit divisors using models, strategies, and algorithms.
- Compare fractions, generate equivalent fractions, and solve meaningful problems involving fractions.
- Design investigations, use tools safely, measure accurately, analyze data, and support explanations with evidence.
- Explain important people, events, regions, and eras in Texas history.
- Monitor progress toward academic goals and adjust strategies when needed.

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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.