

Eighth Grade

English Language Arts & Literacy

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 8th Grade . . .

- Citing the evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what is explicitly stated and/or implied from a book, article, poem, or play
- Analyzing where materials on the same topic disagree on matters of fact, interpretation, or point of view
- Learning how authors support their ideas through word choice, sentence and paragraph structure, and other methods
- Building writing around strong central ideas or points of view; supporting the ideas with sound reasoning and evidence, precise word choices, smooth transitions, and different sentence structures
- Planning and conducting research projects
- Analyzing the purpose of information presented in diverse media (e.g., print, TV, web) and evaluating its social, political, or commercial motives
- Presenting findings and claims to others, emphasizing key points with relevant evidence and sound reasoning.
- Adapt speech to the audience and the formality of the setting.
- Respond to questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas

Help Your Child Learn At Home

- ◆ Make time for family discussions.
- ◆ Visit the campus of a local college with your teen. Begin talking about college early. What does he or she expect from college? What high school courses will your child need to pass to prepare for college?
- ◆ Make sure to keep books and magazines around the house that your child will enjoy reading.

College and Career Ready

By implementing the Utah Core Standards, Tooele schools have committed to devoting more time and resources to preparing your child for college and the real world. The rigorous, research-based, and internationally benchmarked standards are designed to:

- Align with the expectations of colleges and the modern workforce
- Build upon states' decades-long efforts to craft high-quality education standards
- Provide a clear understanding of what students should know and be able to do at each grade level
- Give parents and teachers tools to help students stay on the college- and career-ready path

Utah Core/Common Core Links & Information

Here are a few links containing additional information, including details on what each child will be expected to know and do in each grade, as well as tips for parents:

- www.corestandards.org
- www.schools.utah.gov/core
- www.pta.org/parentsguide

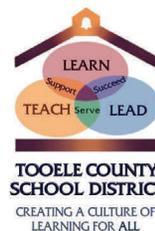
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Utah Core State Standards



Every Student
College and Career
Ready

TOOELE COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Eighth Grade

Frequently Asked Questions

WHEN WILL MY CHILD START LEARNING UNDER THE UTAH CORE STANDARDS?

The Tooele County School District Board of Education approved the following implementation timeline:



Math

- 2011-2012: Grades K-2, 6-8, and 9
- 2012-2013: Grades 3-5, and 10
- 2013-2014: Grade 11

Language Arts

- 2011-2012: Grades K-5, and 7-12
- 2012-2013: Grade 6



HOW WILL THE STANDARDS CHANGE WHAT MY CHILD IS LEARNING?

Utah standards have sometimes been characterized as being “a mile wide and an inch deep”; meaning, many topics are introduced to students without opportunities for in-depth application. The Utah Core Standards focus instruction on critical thinking to better prepare students for real-world challenges. They specify what students need to know and do at each grade level. They allow for deeper instruction, give students more time to master each skill, and introduce each skill in sequence to lead naturally to higher-level thinking and analysis.

WILL MY CHILD BE ABLE TO TAKE ALGEBRA AND GEOMETRY?

Absolutely – starting in kindergarten. Higher-level math concepts are embedded in K-12 instruction. While math courses offered in secondary schools will no longer carry names to which we’ve become accustomed to, such as algebra or geometry, they will expand upon geometric and algebraic concepts students have been learning all along.

WILL THE STANDARDS BE TOO RIGOROUS FOR MY CHILD WHO IS STRUGGLING?

No. Teachers will receive ongoing training and support so they can quickly identify students who need additional attention. The standards are few and more in-depth; therefore, teachers will be better able to prevent students from falling behind.

HOW WILL THE STANDARDS FURTHER MY ADVANCED STUDENT’S PROGRESS?

All Tooele secondary schools will continue to offer Advanced Placement, Concurrent Enrollment, and Honors courses. In elementary school, teachers will receive ongoing training and support to help them tailor instruction to meet the needs of all students and provide greater depth and complexity to advanced learners.

ARE THE STANDARDS A NATIONAL CURRICULUM?

No. The standards specify what students need to know and be able to do at each grade level to become college- and career-ready. They articulate expectations and results, not the manner in which content is taught.



TCSD is committed to providing educational opportunities to students without regard to race, color, sex, national origin or disability. If you have questions, please contact the Title IX Coordinator @ (435) 833-1900.

Eighth Grade

Math

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 8th Grade . . .

- Understanding slope and relating linear equations in two variables to lines in the coordinate plane
- Solving linear equations; solving pairs of linear equations; and writing equations to solve related word problems
- Understanding functions as rules that assign a unique output number to each input number; using linear functions to model relationships
- Analyzing statistical relationships by using a best-fit line (a straight line that models an association between two quantities)
- Working with positive and negative exponents, square root and cube root symbols, and scientific notation
- Understanding congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software
- Understanding and applying the Pythagorean theorem ($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$) to solve problems

Help Your Child Learn At Home

Look for “word problems” in real life. An example might include:

- ♦ Analyzing data with a scatterplot. For example, use a scatterplot to decide whether exercise and obesity are related.

The proceeding was an abridged version of National PTA’s Parents’ Guide to Student Success. Read it in full at www.pta.org/parentsguide

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