

# Sixth Grade

## English Language Arts & Literacy

### A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 6th Grade . . .

- Analyzing how chapters of a book, scenes of a play, or stanzas of a poem fit into the overall structure of the piece and contribute to the development of ideas or themes
- Gaining knowledge from materials that make extensive use of elaborate diagrams and data to convey information and illustrate concepts
- Evaluating the argument and specific claims in written materials or a speech, and distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not
- Presenting claims and findings to others orally, sequencing ideas logically, and accentuating main ideas or themes
- Writing arguments that provide clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources
- Writing brief reports that examine a topic, have a clear focus, and include relevant facts, details, and quotations
- Conducting short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and sharpening the focus based on the research findings
- Reviewing and paraphrasing key ideas and multiple perspectives of a speaker

### Help Your Child Learn At Home

- ◆ Listen with your child to a television reporter, politician, or other speaker. Ask your child to tell you the speaker's main points. Was the speaker trying to convince the audience of something? How?
- ◆ Invite your child to participate in an adult gathering, such as a meal with friends, to practice listening skills and making conversation.
- ◆ Encourage your child to learn at the library or on the Internet what life in your community was like 100 years ago. Have your child write a story, poem, or play about that time.

## 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](http://www.corestandards.org)
- [www.schools.utah.gov/core](http://www.schools.utah.gov/core)
- [www.pta.org/parentsguide](http://www.pta.org/parentsguide)

TOOELE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

92 Lodestone Way  
Tooele, Utah 84074  
Office: 435-833-1900  
Fax: 435-833-1912

[webmaster@tooeleschools.org](mailto:webmaster@tooeleschools.org)

Follow us on

Facebook [www.facebook.com/tooeleschools](http://www.facebook.com/tooeleschools)  
and Twitter ([tooeleschools](https://twitter.com/tooeleschools))



# Utah Core State Standards



Every Student  
College and Career  
Ready

# TOOELE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Sixth 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.

# Sixth Grade

## Math

## A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 6th Grade . . .

- Understanding ratios and rates, and solving problems involving proportional relationships (e.g., if it took 7 hours to mow 4 lawns, then at that rate, how many lawns could be mowed in 35 hours? At what rate were lawns being mowed?)
- Dividing fractions and solving related word problems (e.g., how wide is a rectangular strip of land with length  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile and area  $\frac{1}{2}$  square mile?)
- Using positive and negative numbers together to describe quantities; understanding the ordering and absolute values of positive and negative numbers
- Working with variables and expressions by generalizing the way numbers work (e.g., when adding numbers, the order doesn’t matter, so  $x + y = y + x$ ; likewise, properties of addition and multiplication can be used to rewrite  $24x + 18y$  as  $6(4x + 3y)$ , or  $y + y + y$  as  $3y$ )
- Writing equations to solve word problems and describe relationships between quantities

## Help Your Child Learn At Home

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

- ♦ Finding the surface area of the walls and ceiling in a room to determine the cost of painting the room.

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

**National PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.®