

PARENT GUIDE FOR GRADES 9–12 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Preparing Florida’s Children for a Successful Future



All Florida students deserve to graduate high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, careers and life. Over the last several years, Florida has made strong academic gains. But, we know today’s workforce requires our graduates to have stronger critical thinking, problem solving and communications skills than ever before. Higher standards that challenge and motivate our students are essential.

To address this need, education leaders across the state of Florida improved our academic content standards, creating new expectations for what students need to know and be able to do. The Florida Standards are designed to ensure that **ALL** students reach their greatest potential—whatever their path may be.

Preparing your child for success begins in kindergarten and continues as your child moves up through each grade. This guide will support parents and families with children in **grades 9–12** by helping you:

- **Learn** about the Florida Standards and why they matter for your child.
- **Talk** with your child’s teachers about what he/she will be learning in the classroom.
- **Support** your child’s learning in practical ways at home.

LEARN ABOUT THE STANDARDS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in grades 9–12—along with some important additional skills. **Grades 9–12** students are learning these types of lessons:

- Citing strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Analyzing how an author’s choices concerning how to structure text, order events within the book and manipulate time create such effects as mystery, tension and surprise.
- Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.
- Evaluate a speaker’s point of view, reasoning and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis and tone used.



Every child develops at his/her own pace. The activities in this guide are recommended age-specific guidelines for growing young minds.



Download the complete English Language Arts Florida Standards for Grades 9–12 at www.flstandards.org

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TALK WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



By high school, students are all on their way to independence. However, parents should continue to both influence and advocate for their teenager. Stay involved with their school and extracurricular activities. Your supportive presence and attitude continuously reinforce your student's confidence and competence. Consider attending teacher conferences together. Ask each teacher how his or her course is preparing your student for next steps.

- What connections does the course make to future college and career options? Is this an area in which your student has talent and might specialize?
- What advice does the teacher have for your student's future success?

Make sure to meet and regularly touch base with your student's counselor and to attend any special events the school hosts regarding planning for graduation and beyond.

SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

As a parent, you are your child's first teacher. You can encourage learning English Language Arts at home in ways that are fun for you and your child. Try these ideas after school, on weekends and during the summer:



Encourage your student to participate in "Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!"
www.justreadflorida.com/literacyweek.asp.



Read poems. Your student can create and submit his or her own poems and speak their mind by participating in "slams" at www.powerpoetry.org/.



Set up and carry out a family debate night. Incorporate the principles of argument into your more informal discussions with your teen.



Utilize online grammar resources such as the Purdue University Online Writing Lab.
owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/5/.



Post a family word of the week or month, include its definition and an example of how it might be used in a sentence. Make a point to learn the word and use it in conversations with one another as well as written communication.



Utilize "A+ Research and Writing," a step-by-step guide to researching and writing a paper at www.ipl.org/div/aplus/.



Go to the movies or watch videos as a family. Encourage your student to read the books the movies are based on. Talk about the similarities and differences.



Encourage your son or daughter to volunteer as a tutor or mentor to teach younger children how to read.



Encourage your student to use a traditional planner or digital calendar to keep track of daily activities and school assignments.



Have a newspaper, print or digital, available to your high schooler every day. Urge him or her to read it. Talk about the about the different writing styles.

Talk to your child's teacher or principal to learn more great ideas to support learning at home.

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Questions? Contact JustforParents@fldoe.org