



New York State learning standards outline what a student should know and be able to do by the end of the grade level or band. There are also skills that a well-rounded student should possess. Listed below are examples of the **Schenectady City School District Academic Expectations for Sixth Grade Students**. These should be viewed holistically and are not meant to determine promotion or retention. A student may demonstrate or be on track for proficiency without having mastered every skill. Teachers intervene as appropriate to support skills development.

READING

- Provide relevant and specific details from texts to support answers and inferences
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is developed by key supporting details; summarize a text
- Describe the plot and how the plot affects characters' behavior
- Analyze how sections (paragraphs, stanzas, scenes) are part of overall text structure and help develop theme/central idea, setting, or plot.)
- Identify and explain how point of view is developed and conveys meaning
- Evaluate argument and claims in text; distinguish between claims supported by relevant evidence from claims that are not
- Compare/contrast texts in different forms or genres
- Read and understand grade 6 literature and informational texts

WRITING AND LANGUAGE

- Demonstrate grade-appropriate use of spelling, grammar, usage, mechanics
- Write an argument to support claim(s) using clear reasons, relevant evidence
- Write informative texts to share relevant ideas and information
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear sequence
- Use transition words to help develop key ideas
- Conduct research to answer questions and to build knowledge
- Take notes and create outlines using appropriate strategies

VOCABULARY

- Use context clues and knowledge of common Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes to determine word meaning
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships (e.g., part/whole, item category) and nuances in word meaning
- Acquire and use grade-appropriate general academic and content area words

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

- Engage in collaborative discussions
- Come to discussions prepared, having read, or studied required material
- Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using relevant descriptions, facts, and details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear enunciation

Grade six students in the Schenectady City School District are screened three times per year for literacy to ensure that they are on track for reading proficiency.

Grade 6 Screening

If screening results indicate that a student is at risk of not achieving proficiency, teachers will administer a diagnostic assessment to help determine specific areas in need of reinforcement.

In addition, grade 6 students are assessed in writing fluency three times per year and take periodic assessments in math, reading, and science to measure progress toward standards.

Students in grade 6 take the New York State Assessments in English language arts and mathematics.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Set aside daily time for reading. Ask students questions about the books they have chosen. Read the book to yourself to foster better conversations.

Encourage students to select books about science, history, art, music, and famous people. Building background knowledge is important for comprehension.

Expect students to write daily, using the strategies they learn in school. Writing about what they read improves comprehension.

Observations are an important scientific skill. Writing, drawing, and taking photographs are all ways to record observations.

Take pictures of butterflies, record chirping crickets, use a website to learn more about a specific phenomenon or creature.

Practice basic math facts by posing problems to solve mentally. Expect a quick verbal response.

Involve your child in tasks that require math such as cooking, measuring, building, etc.

When students make a mistake, help them to problem-solve a better solution.



MATH

Grade Level Fluencies: Multi-digit division; Multi-digit decimal operation

Geometry: Solve real-world math problems involving area, surface area, and volume

Ratios and Proportional Relationships

- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problem

The Number System

- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions
- Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers to the system of rational numbers

Expressions and Equations

- Extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions
- Reason about and solve-one variable equations and inequalities
- Use variable to represent and analyze quantitative relationships

Statistics and Probability

- Develop understanding of how a set of data varies by how it is collected
- Display and summarize numerical data in plots in a number line

SCIENCE

- Understand and apply scientific concepts, principles, theories related to the physical setting, Earth and space science, and the living environment
- Recognize the historical development of ideas in science: ecosystems and biomes; plant and animal characteristics; forces and motion; electricity; magnetism and electromagnetism; weather; the atmosphere; the Earth, moon, and sun
- Recognize that objects have properties that can be observed, describe, and/or measured (states of matter, density, temperature, conductor, etc.)
- Use scientific inquiry to show understanding of the scientific process and concepts by making observations and testing explanations; analyze using both conventional and invented methods to provide insights into

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Analyze the development and interactions between cultures, civilizations, empires; compare trends in government and economics in the Eastern Hemisphere (EH)
- Compare/contrast belief systems and religions that developed in the EH
- Analyze how complex societies and civilizations change over time and how their political and economic structures evolve
- Examine how trade networks promotes the exchange and diffusion of language, belief systems, tools, intellectual ideas, inventions, and diseases

ART

- Use Elements and Principles of Art & Design to communication meanings and ideas
- Use various materials/tools, including digital technology, to promote creativity
- Analyze, reflect, discuss, and interpret artwork, and identify artist inferences
- Research and discuss a variety of artworks from diverse cultures throughout time

MUSIC

- Sing alone and with others using steps, skips, repeated notes
- Listen to music and write descriptions of musical elements
- Compose simple melodies, rhythms, and multiple part songs
- Identify music styles including American folk, Blues/Jazz, Rock 'n' Roll
- Identify the main components of musicals including composer, lyricist, scenery, choreographer, characters, costumes

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Perform basic motor and manipulative skills
- Attain competency in a variety of physical activities
- Demonstrate safe, responsible, personal, and social behavior