

Your child is making strides toward high school graduation!

Parents have common questions about achievement and instruction as students move through each grade. This guide will point you to answers to help your student reach graduation.

What is my child learning?

State standards describe what Oregon students should know and be able to do by the end of the school year.

Learning to read and write

Characteristics of first grade readers:

- Recognizes the features of a sentence (*Ex. first words, capitalization*)
- Recognizes the spelling and sounds of two letters that represent one sound
- Reads one-syllable words
- Reads grade-level words with irregular spelling
- Uses strategies to read multisyllabic words
- Talks about and answers questions about a text



View a sample of first grade reading & writing at grade level

Math foundations

Characteristics of first grade mathematics:

- Represents and solves addition and subtraction problems using various strategies
- Adds and subtracts within 20
- Uses place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract
- Measures lengths directly and indirectly
- Tells and writes time in hours and half-hours
- Represents and interprets data to solve problems
- Reasons with shapes and their attributes



View a sample of first grade math at grade level

What does it take to graduate?

It may seem strange to think about high school graduation when your child is in elementary school; but, it's important to set the goal early.

Elementary school is the time when students form a foundation of skills and knowledge they will build on year after year.

The best way to set your student up to reach graduation is to make sure they are meeting standards every year. Now is the time to start.

How is my child doing?

Staying engaged in your child's education is critical.

For many students, having their families be active members in their education can help keep them on track to graduate.

These are a few ways parents or guardians can stay involved in knowing how their child is doing in their classes and help their child receive the support needed to succeed.

1

Progress reports

Parents of elementary students receive three progress reports (report cards) each year. Salem-Keizer's elementary schools use a **proficiency grading system**, which means grades reflect the student's progress toward mastering a standard.

Grades are reported on a scale of one to four. A score of three means the student meets grade level standards, or is proficient.

2

Talk with your child's teacher

A conversation with the teacher is a great way to find out about student progress. Email or through the ParentSquare app is the fastest way to get in touch with teachers. Teachers may also be available for phone conversations after school.

Remember—it's important to attend parent-teacher conferences!

Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet one-on-one with your child's teacher.

3

Ongoing assessments

In kindergarten through second grade, teachers **continually evaluate** student work to gauge progress toward standards. This is called "ongoing assessment."

Older students (grades 3–8 and 11) take annual state tests in reading, writing and math. Grades 5, 8 and 11 also take annual tests in science. These tests provide the Oregon Department of Education with information on how well schools are helping students reach state standards.

Teachers in higher grades use state test information, ongoing assessment and other measures to help them gauge student learning. In future grades, parents can also use state test scores as one way to know how their children are doing in class.

How can I help at home?

As a parent or guardian, you are the most influential person in your child's future success.

There are many things you can do to help set your child up for success in school.

Tips to prepare your child for graduation at home

- Demonstrate a positive attitude about school. Your children will model your attitude.
- Know about the academic concepts your child is learning (*reverse side*).
- Have a comfortable place set up for schoolwork and minimize distractions (*turn off the TV and video games*).
- Make sure there are supplies like paper and pencils. Contact your school for support if needed.
- Read nonfiction books with your child, and talk about what's happening in the books.
- Encourage and practice writing at home.
- Talk with your child about different careers people have, and what skills are needed.
- Ask your child to solve simple math problems of everyday life like figuring correct change.
- Try your best to help your child have regular attendance and actively participate in class. Regular engagement and participation in school is critical, especially for young learners. Use ParentVUE to track student attendance and encourage active participation in class activities each and every day.
- Check your ParentSquare app regularly and have open communication with your child's school.