A new school year means a new classroom, new teachers, and new learning goals for your child. For some, this may even be the beginning of their career as a student. This guide provides you with a quick overview of what you can expect to see in your child’s classroom this year, how you can engage with his or her teacher(s) to ensure your child is on track throughout the school year, and what resources are available to support learning at home.

**WHAT ARE Educational Standards?**

**WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?**

**EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS**

- Set clear and consistent learning expectations
- Define what children should know and be able to do at each grade level
- Help set high goals for learning

**LOUISIANA’S BIRTH TO FIVE EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

are applicable to all children while reflecting language, literacy, and cognitive domains as well as social-emotional and physical development.

**THE K-2 LOUISIANA STUDENT STANDARDS**

ensure that all students, regardless of their address, background, or ability, have a clear roadmap to success in college or a career. Clearly defined goals help families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed, have access to extra assistance when they need it, and are challenged appropriately.

**WHAT WILL learning look like in the classroom this year?**

**CHILD LEARNING**

- Develop and maintain positive relationships with peers and adults
- Demonstrate cooperation with peers by sharing, taking turns, and interacting cooperatively
- Develop a strong foundation for literacy by engaging in purposeful, meaningful language and early print activities
- Express vocabulary knowledge and listening comprehension through oral language for both social and academic purposes
- Build knowledge, discuss, and write about topics, themes, and ideas in rich read alouds and meaningful texts
- Support thoughts and opinions about meaningful texts using evidence
- Develop deep understanding, skill, and fluency in math
- Think critically in math through speaking, writing, and solving problems
- Apply math and science content knowledge to real-world problems and tasks
- Investigate, evaluate, and use scientific reason

**ASSESSMENTS**

A strong assessment plan in the early grades includes:

- Screening to quickly identify which children may need additional support;
- Progress monitoring to ensure children are making adequate progress; and
- Diagnostic evaluation to target specific needs of children who are not making progress.

- Teaching Strategies GOLD® is an ongoing observational assessment tool used in Louisiana pre-K classrooms to monitor children’s development and learning.
- The Kindergarten Entry Assessment evaluates kindergarten readiness of individual children to identify where a child may need additional instructional supports.
- K-3 Literacy Screening Assessments identify which children may be at risk for experiencing reading difficulties in order to provide timely and effective support.
How can I support my child’s learning at home (pre-K–2)?

Learning should not end in the classroom. At home, you can play an important role in setting high expectations for learning and supporting your child. Building this understanding of what your child knows and should be able to do begins with meaningful conversations with your child and your child’s teacher. By taking these small steps, you will be helping your child become successful both in and outside of the classroom.

### STUDENT CONVERSATIONS

Take the time each week to talk with your child about what he or she is learning.

**ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS:**

- What are you learning in school? How did you learn it?
- Do you want to learn more about something you are learning in class?
- Is there anything in school that you don’t understand and need more help with?

### TEACHER CONVERSATIONS

Start off the school year by having a conversation with your child’s teacher about what supports or challenges they may need this year to ensure their success.

**ASK THE TEACHER QUESTIONS:**

- Where did my child do well and where does he or she need improvement?
- What can be done in the classroom to help my child improve?
- What can be done to appropriately challenge my child in areas where he or she exceeded the expectations?
- How can I help support my child’s development and learning at home?

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**Tools and Resources to Support Parents and Children**

Below are additional resources that you can access to further support your child’s learning at home.

**LOUISIANA’S FAMILY SUPPORT TOOLBOX LIBRARY:**
Information on standards, test results, and other assessment resources [http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/family-support-toolbox-library](http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/family-support-toolbox-library)

**VROOM:**
Tips and activities for parents to boost child learning ages birth through 5. [https://www.vroom.org/](https://www.vroom.org/)

**PBS EDUCATION:**
Online tools from PBS to support ELA, math, science, music and arts [http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/](http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/)

**GREAT KIDS MILESTONES:**

**PTA FAMILY GUIDES:**
Tips for helping your child succeed in key learning areas. [https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/family-guides](https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/family-guides)

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**WHOM DO I CONTACT with questions?**

Please call or email your child’s teacher with questions about their learning. Additional questions that can’t be addressed by their teacher, should be directed to the school principal.