A new school year means a new grade level, new teachers, and new learning goals for your child. 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 for students and teachers
- Define what students should know and be able to do in a particular subject at each grade level
- Help set high goals for all students

WHAT WILL student learning LOOK LIKE IN THE classroom this year?

STUDENT LEARNING

- Investigate, evaluate, and reason scientifically
- Connect scientific thinking and ideas across different disciplines of science
- Examine sources to learn content and make connections among people, events, and ideas across time and place
- Express claims supported by evidence from sources and outside knowledge
- 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
- Build knowledge, discuss, and write about topics, themes, and ideas in complex texts
- Support thoughts and opinions about complex texts using evidence

ASSESSMENTS

- Students in grades 3 through 8 will take the LEAP 2025 tests for ELA, math, science, and social studies; students in English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, and US History courses will take the LEAP 2025 tests.
- School systems can choose to provide students in grades 3 and 4 the LEAP 2025 tests online or on paper while students in grades 5-8 and high school will take the tests online.
- Students taking English III will continue to take the End-of-Course (EOC) test.
How Can I Support Student Learning at Home (grades 3-8)?

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 _____ class?
- Do you understand what you are learning?
- Do you want to learn more about a subject that you are doing really well in or about a topic being discussed in your class?
- Is there anything in this subject or class that you don’t understand and feel you need more help with?

**Teacher Conversations**

Start off the school year by having a conversation with your child’s teacher about how they performed last year, and what supports or challenges they may need this year to ensure their success with the skills required in each class or subject. You should bring your child’s test results from last year with you to the conference.

**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 improve his or her area(s) of weakness?
- 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 learning at home?

Tools and Resources to Support Parents and Students

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)

**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)

**Parent Assessment Portal:**
[https://bealearninghero.org/spring-forward/louisiana/](https://bealearninghero.org/spring-forward/louisiana/)

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.
Student success is more than what can be measured in course grades and test scores. One of the many ways families support high school students is by showing interest in their social/emotional needs as well as their academic success.

**STUDENT CONVERSATIONS**

Talk with your child about what he or she is thinking, feeling, and learning.

- What are your long-term goals after **graduation**?
- What can I do to help you pursue your goals?
- How can we work together to **fund your postsecondary education**?
- Do you feel challenged enough at school?
- Do you need support with anything?

**COUNSELOR CONVERSATIONS**

- What kinds of college and career activities are planned for students this year?
- How can I participate in school activities?
- What can we do at home to help our student explore colleges and universities?
- What are the **financial aid access events** planned this year?
- When will we be completing the **Individual Graduation Plan** (IGP)?

**Resources to Support Families During the High School Years**

**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)

**Graduation Requirements**
[https://www.louisianabelieves.com/courses/graduation-requirements](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/courses/graduation-requirements)

**Financial Aid Library**
[https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/courses](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/courses)

**Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance**

**Parents and School Counselors: Partners for Student Success**
[https://www.schooltube.com/video/003d77dc50787348fbcf/Parents-and-School-Counselors-Partners-for-Student-Success](https://www.schooltube.com/video/003d77dc50787348fbcf/Parents-and-School-Counselors-Partners-for-Student-Success)

**4 Must-Ask Questions for Your High School Guidance Counselor**

**All Things Jump Start**
[https://www.louisianabelieves.com/courses/all-things-jump-start](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/courses/all-things-jump-start)

**Whom do I contact with questions?**

Please call or email the school to schedule an appointment with your child’s teacher, counselor, or principal. Contact your school system with questions that can’t be addressed by their school.