

First Grade English Language Arts and Reading TEKS Introduction

(1) In Grade 1, students continue to develop their oral language and communication skills and move to becoming independent readers and writers. First grade students listen attentively and connect their experiences and ideas with information and ideas presented in print. Students listen and respond to a wide variety of children's literature, including selections from classic and contemporary works. The stories and informational books students hear introduce them to new vocabulary. Students recognize the distinguishing features of stories, poems, and informational texts. First grade students continue to develop their concepts of how print connects with spoken language. Students understand that spoken language is composed of sequences of sounds and that those sounds are represented by letters. Students can name the letters and know the order of the alphabet and associate sounds with the letter or letters that represent them. Students learn most of the common letter-sound correspondences and use this knowledge to help them decode written words. First grade students regularly read (both orally and silently) in texts of appropriate difficulty with fluency and understanding. Students demonstrate their comprehension by asking and answering questions, retelling stories, predicting outcomes, and making and explaining inferences. First grade students become adept writers. Students know the difference between words, sentences, and paragraphs. First grade students can organize their thoughts and ideas into complete stories or reports. Students use subjects and verbs and are able to write complete sentences using basic capitalization and punctuation. First grade students become more proficient spellers as they learn to spell a number of high-frequency words and words with regularly spelled patterns. The students' messages move from left-to-right and from top-to-bottom and are written with increasing control of penmanship.

(2) For first grade students whose first language is not English, the students' native language serves as a foundation for English language acquisition.

(3) The essential knowledge and skills as well as the student expectations for Grade 1 are described in subsection (b) of this section. Following each statement of a student expectation is a parenthetical notation that indicates the additional grades at which these expectations are demonstrated at increasingly sophisticated levels.

(4) To meet Public Education Goal 1 of the Texas Education Code, §4.002, which states, "The students in the public education system will demonstrate exemplary performance in the reading and writing of the English language," students will accomplish the essential knowledge and skills as well as the student expectations for Grade 1 as described in subsection (b) of this section.

(5) To meet Texas Education Code, §28.002(h), which states, ". . . each school district shall foster the continuation of the tradition of teaching United States and Texas history and the free enterprise system in regular subject matter and in reading courses and in the adoption of textbooks," students will be provided oral and written narratives as well as other informational

texts that can help them to become thoughtful, active citizens who appreciate the basic democratic values of our state and nation.