



Highlights: Retention Policy 5123

- Students shall be considered for retention at the end of grades 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8.
- Decisions regarding retention will be determined based on academic performance in the following subject areas:

Grades 2, 3 - Reading
Grades 4, 5, 8 - Reading, English/Language Arts, Mathematics

- Report card "grades," results of State testing, and assessments measuring the learning of grade level academic standards are extremely important in determining promotion to the next grade.
- Supplemental instruction for students "at-risk" of being retained shall be provided.
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be notified at each reporting period if their student is in danger of being retained and in need of extra assistance (at home and at school).

If your child is not proficient in grade level skills, ask your school principal or teacher about extra assistance available.

Parent - School Partnership

Working together **we** can **help your child learn** the necessary academic, social and work skills to progress successfully through the grades.

To facilitate this effort watch for several "innovations" to be implemented this year.

- A standards-based curriculum that clearly defines skills, knowledge and abilities students will be taught at each grade level.
- Homework packets to assist parents in helping their children learn the standards, especially the essential standards identified in this flyer.
- A new report card and student records designed to better inform parent(s)/guardian(s) about their child's learning of the grade level standards.
- An enhanced Parent-Teacher Conference format focusing on grade level skills.
- Supplemental instructional programs after school, on Saturdays, and/or during intersessions for students needing extra help.
- Teacher and parent training programs focused on strategies to improve student achievement.

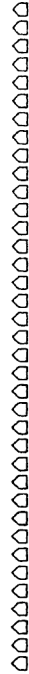
Academic Essentials

First Steps to Proficiency

A Guide for Parents

Reading/Language Arts & Mathematics Standards

Grade 2



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The Palo Alto Unified School District has adopted reading/language arts and mathematics skills, called standards, that a student in grade 2 is to learn. At some grades learning standards determine whether the student is promoted to the next grade (Board Policy 5123). Some of these standards are more important than others and are, therefore, critical or essential for success next year in grade 3. Mastery of essential standards is a top educational objective for all students. Yet, learning the essential standards is not enough for the student to be considered "grade level proficient."

"First Steps" for grade 2 is designed to focus home study and extra school support in critical skill areas and to provide a common reference for parents and teachers in their dialogue about fundamental student achievement.

Reading, Language Arts - Grade 2	
Content Area	Standards
Reading	Recognizes/uses knowledge of spelling patterns Reads aloud with fluency/natural speech Understands use of common antonyms/synonyms Restates facts/details to organize ideas Interprets information from diagrams, charts, graphs Follows two-step written directions Recognizes cause/effect in text Groups related ideas, maintaining focus Creates readable handwritten documents Writes brief, experiential narratives with logical sequence of events Writes brief, experiential narratives that describe settings, characters, objects, events in detail Revises original drafts: sequences, descriptions Distinguishes between complete/incomplete sentences Uses correct word order in complete sentences Identifies/uses nouns, verbs Uses appropriate capitalization: Proper nouns, beginning of sentence, month/days of week, titles Spells frequently used irregular words Paraphrases information shared by others Recounts experiences in logical sequence Retells stories - with character, setting, plot
	# of Academic Essential Standards - (20 Total)

These skills represent part of the standards for the grade level. Students should not assume learning these skills is sufficient for promotion.

Mathematics - Grade 2	
Content Area	Standards
Number Sense	Counts, reads, writes whole numbers to 1,000 and identifies place values Orders, compares whole number to 1,000 using <, =, > Uses inverse relationship of +, - to solve problems/check solutions Obtains sum/difference of two 3-digit whole numbers Uses repeated addition, arrays, counting by multiples to do multiplication Uses repeated subtraction, equal sharing, grouping to do division Knows times (X) tables 2s, 5s, 10s (memorize to "times 10") Recognizes/compares fractions, parts of whole or group ($1/12 \Rightarrow 1/2$); all fractional parts $4/4 = \text{whole } (1)$ Solves problems using combination of coins/bills Uses decimal notation, dollar/cents symbols Uses commutative/associative rules to simplify calculations Relates + and - problems, situations/number sentences Understands patterns and how patterns grow and describes them in general ways Measures length to nearest inch/centimeter using a ruler Tells time to quarter hour and relationships (minutes in hour) and knows intervals of time in hours Describes 2D (squares, rectangles, triangles) and 3D geometric shapes (cubes, rectangular prisms, pyramids) by number or shape of sides, faces and vertices Puts shapes together to form other shapes Represents same data in more than one way (i.e., chart, bar graph) Asks/answers simple questions related to data presentations Uses manipulatives or sketches to model (set up) problems Reads and interprets calendars, simple bar graphs, tally charts or tables Understands concepts related to data (range and mode-most often, least often of the data set)
	# of Academic Essential Standards - (22 Total)