

## ELEMENTARY LEVEL (PreK-K)

(Section 100.3 of NYCRR)

Each school shall provide an educational program based on and adapted to the needs, ages, and interests of the students that includes:

### **Learning activities:**

- development of communication skills and exposure to literature;
- dramatic play, creative art and music activities;
- participation in group projects, discussion, and games;
- science and mathematical experiences; and
- large-muscle activities in prekindergarten and instruction in physical education and health education in kindergarten.

### **Elements of early literacy programs:**

- use of reading to obtain meaning from print;
- frequent and intensive opportunities to read for learning and for pleasure;
- activities that teach regular spelling-sound relationships;
- learning about the nature of the alphabet writing system; and
- understanding the structure of spoken words.

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### **Note:**

Schools shall develop procedures to actively involve each child's parents or guardians in the educational program.

## ELEMENTARY LEVEL (1-6)

(Section 100.3 of NYCRR)

### **Instruction:**

Schools shall provide instruction designed to enable students to attain the State learning standards in:

- mathematics, science, and technology;
- English language arts, including reading, writing, listening, and speaking for purposes of information and understanding, literary response and expression, critical analysis and evaluation, and social interaction, with attention given to comprehension, vocabulary, word study, spelling, grammar, usage, and punctuation;
- social studies, including geography and United States history;
- languages other than English;\*
- the arts, including visual arts, music, dance, and theatre;
- career development and occupational studies; and
- health education, physical education, and family and consumer sciences.

Where student need is established, instruction in bilingual education or English as a second language shall be provided.

### **Assessments:**

Elementary-level assessments aligned to the State learning standards are administered in grade 4 in English language arts, mathematics, and science, and in grade 5 in social studies (beginning November 2001).

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### **Note:**

There are no required time allocations for the various subjects in PreK-6, except for physical education (see Section 135.4(c) of the Commissioner's Regulations).

\* Students who complete Checkpoint A and 2 units of study in a language other than English no later than the end of grade 8 must pass the second language proficiency exam in order to earn 1 unit of credit toward the high school diploma (Section 100.2(d) of NYCRR).

## INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (Grades 7-8)

(Section 100.4 of NYCRR)

### **Units of Study:**

Schools shall provide all students with instruction to enable them to achieve the State intermediate-level learning standards by the end of grade 8 through:

English Language Arts	2 units of study
Social Studies	2 units of study
Science	2 units of study
Mathematics	2 units of study
Technology Education	1 unit of study
Home and Career Skills	3/4 unit of study
Health Education	1/2 unit of study
The Arts	1/2 unit of study in visual arts; 1/2 unit of study in music Equivalent of 1 period per week
Library and Information Skills	
Languages Other Than English*	At least 1 unit of study by the end of grade 8
Physical Education	3 periods for 1 semester and 2 periods for the other semester per year

### **Assessments:**

Intermediate-level assessments aligned to the State learning standards are administered in grade 8 in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

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### **Note:**

- (1) The unit of study requirement (180 minutes per week) for one or more subjects may be reduced for students in need of academic intervention services, but in a manner that does not prevent them from attaining the State learning standards in any area required for graduation or from meeting local standards for promotion.
- (2) Qualified students in grade 8 shall have the opportunity to take high school courses and receive diploma credit (Section 100.4(c) of NYCRR). Schools must offer grade 8 acceleration in at least two subjects, one of which must be a mathematics course.
- (3) Study in home and career skills, technology, and health education may begin in grade 6 if taught by a teacher certified in the area.

\* Students who complete Checkpoint A and 2 units of study in a language other than English no later than the end of grade 8 must pass the second language proficiency exam in order to earn 1 unit of credit toward the high school diploma (Section 100.2(d) of NYCRR).

## Additional Resources

*Academic Intervention Services (Q&A):*  
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/>

*Early Literacy Profile and Facilitator's Guide*  
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/pub/>

*Essential Elements of Reading*  
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/pub/>

*Essential Elements of Standards-Focused Middle-Level Schools and Programs*  
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/pub/>

*Learning Standards and Alternate Performance Indicators for Students with Severe Disabilities*  
<http://web.nysed.gov/vesid/se/lrnstdi.htm>

*Learning Standards, Resource Guides, and Assessments:*  
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/>

*Limited English Proficiency/English Language Learners*  
<http://www.nysben.org/>

*New York State Academy for Teaching and Learning (learning experiences developed by teachers):*  
<http://www.nysatl.nysed.gov/home.html>

*Preschool Planning Guide and Early Elementary Resource Guide:*  
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/pub/>

*Sharing Success (successful educational programs and practices):*  
<http://www.sharingsuccess.org/>

*Special Education:*  
<http://web.nysed.gov/vesid/special.html>

*Part 100 of Commissioner's Regulations Relating to General Education and Diploma Requirements:*  
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/part100/opener.html>

Please feel free to duplicate this pamphlet as needed. You may access the pamphlet on the Department's Part 100 web site at  
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/part100/opener.html>.

Questions on specific topics can be directed to the contact person listed on the subject/contact directory at  
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/menu/direct3.html>.

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# GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

**Elementary Level**  
(PreK - Grade 6)

**Intermediate Level**  
(Grades 7 - 8)

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New York State Education Department  
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