

# Guide to NYC Public Schools

A Grade-Specific  
Handbook for  
Supporting Your  
Child's Education



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**Department of  
Education**

*Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor*

# Great Schools Start with Great Expectations

Families play a vital role in students' educational journeys. By staying involved in your child's education and exploring future pathways together, you can help your child reach his or her full potential.

**Learning standards describe what students should know and be able to do in each grade. In this guide, you will find examples of what seventh grade students should know and be able to do by the end of the school year in language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. You will also find ways you can support learning as a family, including things you can do at home, in your neighborhood, and around our great City.**

For our students to succeed in a rapidly changing world, they need to learn to think creatively, solve problems, make effective arguments, and engage in debates. Over the next few years, New York and more than 40 other states will begin to transition to a new set of learning standards designed to prepare all students, from prekindergarten through grade 12, for success in college and careers. Over time, teachers will integrate these new standards, called the Common Core, into their classrooms.

The Common Core standards provide us with a powerful opportunity to develop students' critical thinking skills and push them to become lifelong learners. This year, as our schools continue to work to ensure all students achieve at high levels, students will also get the chance to engage in these new, higher standards through reading and analyzing nonfiction texts and using math to solve complex, real-world problems.

To learn more about the Common Core in New York City schools, ask your child's teacher or visit our Common Core Library at [schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/FamilyResources](https://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/FamilyResources). To learn more about the Common Core standards nationally, visit [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

## Good Study Habits

To help your children develop good study habits:

- ❑ Set up a comfortable location at home for doing homework with simple supplies, such as pens, pencils, paper, scissors, and tape, near at hand.
- ❑ Have them write down and organize assignments each day. They need to learn how to manage their time and work toward long-range goals.
- ❑ Encourage them to do the most difficult homework first, not last.
- ❑ Check to see that assignments are complete and on time. Be as concerned with the process they use to complete work as with getting a right answer.

For other ideas, visit [schools.nyc.gov/Academics](https://schools.nyc.gov/Academics).

Sign up for regular e-mail alerts about New York City schools at [schools.nyc.gov/Subscribe](https://schools.nyc.gov/Subscribe).



# Ask Your Child's Teacher



Learning standards provide a great opportunity for you to talk with teachers about what your child is learning in school and how you can support this learning at home. Here are some questions you may want to ask.

## To learn more about a standard:

- Can you show me examples of student work that meets this standard?
- May I look at some of my child's work related to this standard?
- When will my child work on this standard during the school year?
- What activities and materials are you using in school to help my child meet and exceed this standard? What classwork and homework do you expect to assign?
- What are some exercises I can do with my child to help him or her with this standard?
- Besides the standards covered in this guide, what else is my child expected to learn this year?

## To learn how your child is doing in school:

- In what subjects is my child working at grade level? Are there any areas that need improvement?
- Is my child reading at grade level in English and/or the native language? Can you show me some books that my child can read?
- How much time each day does my child spend working on each subject area?
- How do you assess my child on these subjects during the year?

## To learn how to support your child:

- Besides report cards, what are the best ways to keep up to date on how my child is doing?
- If your child is not on grade level: What support is the school able to offer my child? What can I do at home to help my child do better in school?
- If your child is on grade level or above: What extra enrichment and support do you suggest for my child? How can I help at home?

# Language Arts

## By the end of the school year, all students should be able to:

- Recognize how authors use literary devices such as alliteration (repeating the same consonant sounds at the start of words, as in “pretty in pink”) or foreshadowing (weaving in clues about what will happen later in the story).
- Understand that their personal points of view will affect the opinions they form about texts and issues.
- Use different methods to plan and organize their writing. For example, they could keep a writer’s notebook or use a graphic organizer, such as a timeline.
- Listen to class lectures, small-group discussions, and classroom discussions to understand and interpret literature and informational text (reports, articles, etc.).
- Present original literary texts such as their own poems, plays, or stories. Use inventive language and text structures. For example, they could use an introduction that catches the listener’s interest.
- Read and understand at least 25 books, including at least four books about one subject or by the same author or in one genre of literature.
- Recognize that the way words are spoken can affect their meaning. For example, speech can convey sarcasm, irony, or enthusiasm.
- Use different comprehension strategies, such as predicting, questioning, summarizing, visualizing, and making connections, to understand and respond to reading.
- Use knowledge of word roots (such as those of Greek, Latin, or Anglo-Saxon origin) and word parts (such as prefixes and suffixes) to determine the meanings of new words.
- Read silently and aloud from a variety of genres.



## Learning at Home

Your family can do these activities in your native language as well as in English.

**Encourage your child to keep a journal,** blog, or other written record of an ongoing personal experience or theme. For example, he or she could write about possible careers, making and keeping resolutions, undertaking a continuing volunteer project, or starting a new school year.

**Record a discussion between your child and yourself.** Analyze each other’s tone of voice, volume, pace, and choice of language. What nonverbal messages does each voice communicate?

**Encourage your child to check out online research resources** on topics of interest available through the New York Public Library’s Web site, [kids.nypl.org](http://kids.nypl.org).

# Mathematics



## By the end of the school year, all students should be able to:

- Use scientific notation to express very large and very small numbers. For example, 1 trillion (1,000,000,000,000) can be written as 10 to the 12th power, or  $10^{12}$ .
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers—positive whole numbers (1, 2, 3, . . .), negative whole numbers (−1, −2, −3, . . .), and zero.
- Use the circumference or area of a circle to find the radius and diameter of a circle. For example, the circumference equals the diameter multiplied by  $\pi$  ( $\approx 3.1416$ ), so if the circumference of a circle is 15 units, divide 15 by 3.1416 to get a diameter of approximately 4.77 units.
- Understand and apply the geometry of right triangles, including the Pythagorean theorem. The sum of the squares of the two sides of a right triangle equals the square of its hypotenuse, or  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ .
- Identify customary units of mass, such as pound and ounce, and metric units of mass, such as gram and kilogram.
- Calculate distance using a map scale. For example, if the scale is 1 inch = 10 miles, calculate the distance between two points that are  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches apart on a map.
- Calculate and compare unit prices. For example, if an 8-ounce carton of milk costs \$1.00 and a 12-ounce bottle costs \$1.40, calculate the cost per ounce of each to find out which is the better bargain.
- Convert money between different currencies. For example, calculate how much \$100 is in Euros, the currency used by nations in the European Union.
- Solve multistep equations, such as  $2x + 3 + 5x = 10$ , by combining like terms.
- Use estimation to see if an answer to a problem is reasonable.

## Learning at Home

Open a college savings account with your child and set savings goals.

The New York Public Library's Web site for young people has great math and science games and activities at [kids.nypl.org/science/math.cfm](https://kids.nypl.org/science/math.cfm), including homework help and Q&As on middle school math concepts and problems.

Talk with your child and your child's teachers. The math curriculum may have changed since you were a student. Don't be afraid to ask questions. For tips on how to support your child, go to [figurethis.org](https://figurethis.org), and click on "Family Corner."

# Science

Science in seventh grade explores geology, matter and energy, and the dynamic equilibrium of the human animal and other organisms.

## By the end of the school year, all students should be able to:

- Understand that rocks can be igneous (formed from cooled magma or lava), sedimentary (formed by settling and compression), and metamorphic (changed by heat and pressure).
- Understand that rocks go through a cycle of changes from one form to another. For example, igneous rocks can be broken down by weather or other forces into particles that can become compressed into sedimentary rocks. Under pressure and heat, both igneous and sedimentary rocks can become metamorphic rocks.
- Understand where fossils are found and understand the importance of fossils as records of the past.
- Understand that the earth's crust consists of plates that move and understand the evidence that supports that theory.
- Understand that earthquakes are caused by faults and folding in the earth's crust.
- Understand the periodic table and the concepts of atoms, elements, molecules, and compounds.
- Understand chemical reactions—the process of converting one substance into another substance with different properties. Recognize common chemical reactions, such as when hydrogen atoms and oxygen atoms join together to make molecules of water.
- Understand how the human body keeps its internal environment stable (maintains homeostasis) with its systems working smoothly together.
- Understand how the body uses processes, such as respiration and metabolism, to regulate its internal environment.
- Understand how plants and animals obtain energy and respond to their external environment.

## Learning at Home

Together, see fossil specimens of dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures at the American Museum of Natural History's world-famous fossil halls. The museum's Web site, [amnh.org/ology/paleontology/stuff/findfossils.html](http://amnh.org/ology/paleontology/stuff/findfossils.html), offers tips for fossil hunters and links to other sites.

Challenge your child to identify chemical reactions that occur in your home. For example, think about the chemical reactions that occur in cooking, cleaning, and other daily activities. Remember that natural processes, such as photosynthesis and respiration, also are examples of chemical reactions.

Work up a sweat by taking a brisk walk around your neighborhood with your child. Pay attention to how your bodies react by breathing hard, increasing your heartbeat, and other regulatory measures. Whose body returns to normal the fastest?

Encourage your child to visit **Volcano World**, [volcano.oregonstate.edu](http://volcano.oregonstate.edu), a Web site with news and information, personal reports of close volcano encounters, and updates on eruptions around the world.



## Learning at Home

**Take a walk with your family through our City's African-American history.** Visit the African Burial Ground in lower Manhattan, an archaeological site where you can view a memorial, artwork, and an interactive exhibit. Visit [africanburialground.gov](http://africanburialground.gov) to learn more.

**Encourage your child to research how the Civil War changed New York State and our City.** For example, check out the Brooklyn Public Library's online history of Brooklyn's experience in the Civil War at [brooklynpubliclibrary.org/civilwar](http://brooklynpubliclibrary.org/civilwar).

**Invite your child to research your family's immigration story** and share it with the Ellis Island Immigration Museum at [ellisland.org](http://ellisland.org). Your child also can use the site to research the stories of other families.

**As a family, visit the National Museum of the American Indian** in Manhattan, [nmai.si.edu](http://nmai.si.edu). Investigate which Native American communities lived in this region when the first European explorers arrived.



# Social Studies

In seventh grade social studies, students explore United States and New York history from 1500 to the aftermath of the Civil War.

## By the end of the school year, all students should be able to:

- Know and understand the interactions between Native Americans and early European settlers and the effect of settlement on Native Americans.
- Understand the political, economic, and social organization of the Algonquian cultures.
- Understand how different peoples view the same event or issue from a variety of perspectives. For example, how did the views of Native Americans and European explorers regarding colonial settlement differ? How did the views of the slaves and slave owners differ regarding slavery?
- Investigate the heritage and legacies of European colonies in America. For example, examine the influence of the Dutch on the colony of New Amsterdam, or compare and contrast the English, French, and Spanish colonies.
- Describe an event in history through the eyes of an individual who was there.
- Use maps to interpret settlement patterns of the growing American nation, such as the Louisiana Purchase and westward expansion.
- Understand the complex causes of the American Revolution (economic, social, and political).
- Read and interpret documents key to the founding of the United States, such as the Magna Carta, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights.
- Understand the causes and effects of slavery.
- Read and interpret a variety of primary sources to understand the causes and results of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

# More Essential Knowledge and Skills

*Our seventh grade students are learning much more than to read, write, do math, and understand key concepts in science and social studies.*

- **Arts:** Seventh grade students complete one semester each of two art forms, such as visual arts, dance, music, and theater. They build skills and techniques in the art form; create original works; master the vocabulary and related literature; research the history; and use arts institutions as resources for potential careers and for advanced learning in the arts fields.
- **Fitness and Health:** Students continue to improve their personal health and well-being, the health of their families and friends, and the health of their schools and communities. For instance, students learn how to analyze the influence of family, peers, and media on health behaviors and how to practice healthy behaviors and avoid dangerous behaviors, such as smoking and drugs.
- **Library and Research:** By the end of the year, seventh grade students can use background information to predict answers to inquiries; refine research questions; evaluate and use information that is useful, current, and accurate; use facts and opinions responsibly; organize information to draw conclusions; cite sources; recognize and consider the points of view of the author and others; and read a variety of genres.
- **Technology:** Students in the seventh grade continue to practice, discuss, and share safe and acceptable uses for technology and information. Students learn how to identify and implement procedures for designing, creating, and populating a database and how to perform queries to process data and report results relevant to an assigned hypothesis or research question. Students use multiple types of information and communication technology tools to inform and solve a specific problem and present results or to identify and present an informed rationale for a decision.



# What Else You Should Know about your Child's School

## How to Find Answers throughout the School Year

The easiest way to stay updated about your child's education is to get involved at your child's school: check in regularly with your child's teacher, attend parent-teacher conferences, volunteer at school events, or join the parent association.

- If you have a question about an academic issue, you should talk to your child's teacher. If you have a question about any other topic, you should call your child's school and ask to speak to the parent coordinator.
- For personalized and updated information about your child's academic progress—including attendance and test scores—log on to ARIS Parent Link at **ARISparentlink.org**.
- Visit the Department of Education's Web site at **schools.nyc.gov** for the latest news and announcements about the City's schools.
- You can also get regular e-mail alerts about news, enrollment processes, weather-related scheduling changes, and more by signing up at **schools.nyc.gov/Subscribe**.
- For information about your child's school, visit the school's Web site. Go to **schools.nyc.gov** and type in the school name in the section called "School Search."

If you have additional school-related questions, call 311, where a trained operator can help you.

## Translation and Interpretation Services

All parents should be able to participate in their children's education, regardless of what languages they speak. Our Translation and Interpretation Unit translates documents containing critical information about your child's education into the nine languages most commonly spoken by our families: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. We can help arrange for translation into other languages. The unit also provides over-the-phone interpretation for communication between families and school staff in more than 150 languages. To use these services, speak to your child's principal or parent coordinator.

## Internet Access

Throughout this booklet, we mention several Web sites you can visit to find information about your child's education. Remember, you can also always call 311. And if you don't have an Internet connection at home, you can access the Internet for free at your local public library. Many schools also allow parents to use their computers to browse the Internet for school-related information; contact your parent coordinator to learn more.



## Keeping Your Child Safe and Healthy

### Respect for All

We expect our schools to provide safe and supportive learning environments for all students. Bullying, verbal harassment, and physical violence have no place in our schools, especially when such behavior is prompted by prejudice, intolerance, or fear of difference. This policy is in effect during, before, and after school; while on school property; while on vehicles funded by the Department of Education; at all school-sponsored events; and on non-school property when such behavior can be demonstrated to affect the educational process or the school community negatively. A student who believes he or she has been the victim of bullying or intimidating behavior by another student should immediately report the incident orally or in writing to any school staff member. All reports of bullying, harassment, or intimidating behavior will be investigated. School counselors are available to provide counseling services. To learn more about Respect for All, visit [schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/RespectforAll](https://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/RespectforAll).

### Medical Care in School: Nurses, School-Based Health Centers, and Mental Health Services

Nurses are available in many schools to evaluate health problems or to help your child take medication during school hours, if he or she has a medication order from a doctor. A Medication Administration Form (MAF) is available to download from [schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SchoolHealthForms](https://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SchoolHealthForms). All prescriptions must be written on a MAF. The school nurse cannot accept a prescription written on a doctor's personal prescription pad. Some schools have a School-Based Health Center, which provides free comprehensive medical services to students regardless of their health insurance or immigration status. For a list of School-Based Health Center locations, visit [schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SBHC](https://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SBHC) or ask your child's principal or parent coordinator. Many schools also offer school-based mental health services, which can help you address behavioral and emotional difficulties that may interfere with your child's schoolwork. Ask your school guidance counselor, social worker, or parent coordinator about these services.

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Children with disabilities may be legally entitled to health services or accommodations in school to help them participate in regular school activities on an equal basis with their non-disabled peers. To request an accommodation, ask your child's school office for a Section 504 Accommodation form or download it from [schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SchoolHealthForms](https://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Health/SchoolHealthForms).

### Keeping Your Child Fit and Active

Schools offer a range of fitness and health instruction during the school day—along with before and after-school activities—to help students get the 60 minutes of daily physical activity they need to stay healthy and fit. In the spring, most students receive a NYC FITNESSGRAM report that shows whether a student is in the “healthy fitness zone.” Review this report and its recommendations, which include suggestions to help your child improve his or her fitness levels.

Middle school students can also participate in the C.H.A.M.P.S. Middle School Sport and Fitness League, which offers a variety of traditional and non-traditional physical activities for students of all athletic abilities before and after school. To learn more, ask your child's principal or visit [schools.nyc.gov/Academics/FitnessandHealth/CHAMPS](https://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/FitnessandHealth/CHAMPS).



## Attendance

Being in school every day is the first step to success. A student who misses two days of school a month—just two days—will miss a whole month of instruction by the end of the year. School attendance is a priority, from pre-K through high school. Schools know that there may be health conditions such as asthma, family obligations, or other reasons that may make it hard for children to get to school. Talk to your child’s teacher or guidance counselor if there are obstacles to your child’s attendance. Set a family goal for better attendance.

## School Food

Our schools provide healthy meals every day, serving nutritious foods such as fresh fruit and vegetables—including produce from local growers. We prohibit the use of artificial flavors, colors, sweeteners, and trans-fats in school meals.

**All** students, regardless of their parents’ income, are eligible for **free breakfast every day**, and many students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches and snacks. Students who are eligible for reduced-price lunches pay \$0.25 per meal, instead of the full price of \$1.50 per meal.

Every household should complete a School Meals Application Form, sent home with your child at the beginning of the school year, to determine if your child qualifies for free or reduced-price meals. Even if your child doesn’t qualify for reduced-price meals, we ask that you fill out this form, because it will help secure more State funding for your child’s school. You can also easily complete the form online for all of your children at once, at either [www.ApplyForLunch.com](http://www.ApplyForLunch.com) or [nyc.gov/accessnyc](http://nyc.gov/accessnyc).

## Transportation

General education seventh graders who live 1.5 miles or more from school are eligible for transportation to school. If eligible, your child’s school will issue your child a MetroCard on the first day of school. In certain circumstances, half-fare MetroCards are provided by the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) for City buses for general education students who are not eligible for full-fare MetroCards for both subways and buses. At the beginning of the year, you should make sure that the school has your current home address and telephone contact information.



If your child has an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) mandating yellow bus transportation, you should receive a transportation information letter in the mail with details about your child's transportation service in early September. If you do not receive a notice, you can check at [schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Transportation](https://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Transportation) or call 718-392-8855.

To update information or alter your child's bus stop location, please contact your school's transportation coordinator. You can also request to change your child's transportation arrangements due to extraordinary circumstances such as serious medical conditions or hazardous travel conditions. To learn your child's transportation route number, or for concerns, please visit [schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Transportation](https://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Transportation) or call 718-392-8855.

## School Options

Although the next school year may seem far away, it's not too early to begin planning for your child's entrance into high school admissions. To help you make informed choices, there will be a number of fairs, workshops, open houses, and other opportunities for you and your family to learn about New York City's public high schools.

It is important for seventh grade students to understand that only this year's attendance, test scores, and final course marks will be considered by the high schools to which they apply. For more information about high school admissions, please visit [schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High](https://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High).

## Special Education

New York City public schools work to ensure that all students with disabilities receive high-quality special education services. Students who may need these services are evaluated at their schools. Once a child is evaluated, a team including the child's parent or guardian meets to determine if the child has a disability and requires special education services. If so, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed, outlining the special education services the child should receive and establishing clear goals. Children with disabilities participate to the fullest extent appropriate in the general education environment. Some students attend a program in District 75, a Citywide district serving children with severe disabilities. To learn more about special education services, or to view *A Parent's Guide to Special Education Services for School-Age Children*, visit [schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation](https://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation). You can also speak with your child's principal or parent coordinator or call 311.

## English Language Learners

We're committed to serving the needs of students who speak a language other than English at home and who are not yet proficient in English. We provide English Language Learners (ELLs), former ELLs, immigrants, and their families with access to an excellent education, regardless of immigration status. ELL programs help students develop their language skills as they work to master their school assignments. To learn which programs may be best for your child, speak with your child's principal or parent coordinator, call 311, or visit [schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ELL](https://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ELL). In New York City, we have three programs available for ELLs: English as a Second Language, transitional bilingual, and dual language.

## Charter Schools

Charter schools are free public schools open to all New York City students but run by outside organizations, not the local school district. Although charter schools operate independently, students attending charter schools are held to the same standards and take the same state tests as students in other public schools. We've opened dozens of charter schools around the City to offer you more high-quality school choices. Your child may apply to as many charter schools as you wish, using a common application available online. Schools that receive more applications than available seats will hold admissions lotteries. These lotteries are random, not based on the order in which applications are submitted, and cannot favor students based on factors such as academic achievement, special education status, or English fluency. To learn more or to download the common application, visit [schools.nyc.gov/Charters](https://schools.nyc.gov/Charters).

## Services Available to Students in Temporary Housing

Homeless youth are guaranteed equal access to a free high-quality public education, and we offer support services to help students living in temporary housing enroll, attend, and succeed in school. If your child does not have a permanent home, he or she is entitled to assistance with school enrollment, transportation, free school meals, school supplies, and more. Call 311 and ask for a Students in Temporary Housing Liaison, who can help you with these services or visit [schools.nyc.gov/StudentSupport/NonAcademicSupport/StudentsinTemporaryHousing](https://schools.nyc.gov/StudentSupport/NonAcademicSupport/StudentsinTemporaryHousing).

## Ensuring Student Success

We've created several tools to help you understand your child's progress over the school year and how well your school is helping your child learn. You can use these tools to support your child's learning both in school, and at home.

### *ARIS Parent Link*

For up-to-date personalized information about your child's academic progress, including attendance and test grades, check out [ARISparentlink.org](https://ARISparentlink.org). It's available in ten languages and includes online tutorials about how you can use this information to support your child. To log on to your child's account, you'll need an e-mail address, your child's ID (OSIS) number, and your password. Before logging in for the first time, contact the parent coordinator at your child's school for a temporary password.

### *Progress Reports*

Every fall, your child's school receives a Progress Report, including a letter grade of A through F, that measures student academic performance

and progress and school environment. You can use the Progress Report to compare schools, to highlight areas in which your child's school is performing well, and to identify ways it can improve. Each school also receives a Progress Report Overview each year that summarizes the key points of the report. To find these reports or for more information see [schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/Tools/Report/](https://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/Tools/Report/) or look on ARIS Parent Link: [ARISparentlink.org](https://ARISparentlink.org).

### *New York City School Survey*

New York City families have great ideas about how to make our schools better. The annual School Survey invites parents, teachers, and older students to evaluate their schools. Feedback from the survey contributes to the grade your child's school receives on its Progress Report and helps educators make important decisions about your child's school. Make sure you fill out your School Survey either online or on paper this spring.

# Know Your Rights

Under federal and state law, you have certain rights as a parent or guardian. These include the rights to access your child's school, classrooms, academic and attendance records, and educational materials, as long as this access does not disrupt the school day. You also have the right to access information about and attend public meetings as well as hearings of the Chancellor, City board, community superintendents, community education councils, and schools. If you disagree with a school decision, you may take legal action to appeal decisions or may file complaints with the Department of Education about matters affecting your child's education. Finally, you may access information about programs that allow your child to apply for admission, where appropriate, to schools outside your child's attendance zone. To read the full Parents' Bill of Rights, visit [schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ParentBillOfRights](https://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ParentBillOfRights), or to get more information about complaint procedures, visit [schools.nyc.gov/Offices/OFEA](https://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/OFEA). If you have additional questions or concerns, call 311.

## Notice of Federal Privacy Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") gives parents and students age 18 and older certain rights with respect to student education records. The Parents' Bill of Rights and Chancellor's Regulation A-820 provide additional information, which you can see at [schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies](https://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies).

You have the right to:

1. Request, inspect and review your child's education records within 45 days of receipt of your request. You should submit a written request that identifies the record(s) you wish to inspect. Your child's school will notify you of the time and place where you may inspect records.
2. Request changes to your child's education records when you believe they are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise violate FERPA's privacy rights. You should make requests to amend records in writing, and identify the content you want changed and the reason for doing so. If NYC DOE decides not to amend records as requested, you will be notified of your right to a hearing and of certain hearing procedures.
3. Privacy of personally identifiable information in your child's education records, except when FERPA allows disclosure without consent.

One exception permitting disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials who need to review education records to fulfill their professional responsibility. Examples of school officials include NYC DOE employees (such as administrators, supervisors, teachers, other instructors, or support staff members), and people whom the NYC DOE has engaged to perform services or functions for which it would otherwise use its own employees (such as agents, contractors and consultants).

Another exception permitting disclosure without consent is disclosure, upon request, to officials of another school district in which your child seeks or plans to enroll, or is already enrolled if made for purposes of your child's enrollment or transfer.

File a complaint with the US DOE if you believe the NYC DOE failed to comply with FERPA's requirements. Complaints may be filed with the office administering FERPA: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-8520.

# LIBRARY CARD APPLICATION

There are more than 200 public libraries throughout New York City. Free library cards allow you to borrow books, DVDs, CDs, and other materials. Local branches also hold events ranging from picture book readings for children to film series, poetry readings, and computer classes for adults.

## Instructions:

To obtain a library card, please complete this application and submit it with an acceptable ID to your local public library. **Adults** can show a current New York State driver's license, learner's permit, or other photo identification. **Young Adults (ages 13–17)** can show a current report card, working papers, or school ID. **Children (ages 12 and under)** must have a parent or legal guardian sign this application; parents will be responsible for materials checked out on their child's card. Visit the Web site of the library in your borough for a complete list of acceptable identification forms and the location of a branch near you. For the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, go to **nypl.org**; for Brooklyn, go to **brooklynpubliclibrary.org**; for Queens, go to **queenslibrary.org**. Adults and Young Adults may also apply for a library card online.

## 1. Check One:

**Child** (Ages 12 and under)       **Young Adult** (Ages 13–17)       **Adult** (Ages 18 and older)

## 2. Student/Library Cardholder Information:

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name/Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year) \_\_\_\_\_ Gender  Male  Female

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt.# \_\_\_\_\_

Borough or City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Parent/ Guardian (must be completed for students 12 and under):

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name/Initial \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Check A or B:

A. My child may borrow adult as well as children's materials.       B. My child may borrow children's materials only.

**Parent/Guardian is responsible for materials checked out on child's card.**

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## This Section Is for Staff Use Only

NEW

LOST/REPL.

TRANSFER

PTYPE

EXP.DATE

COMPLETE: (Staff Initials)

# Seventh Grade Calendar

**September 8**

First day of school

**September 29–30**

Rosh Hashanah (no school)

**October 10**

Columbus Day observed (no school)

**November 8**

Election Day (no school)

**November 11**

Veterans Day observed (no school)

**November 13–19**

Open Schools Week

**November 16**

Parent-teacher conferences, evening

**November 17**

Parent-teacher conferences, afternoon

**November 24–25**

Thanksgiving Recess (no school)

**December 26–January 2**

Winter Recess (no school)

**January 16**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
(no school)

**February 20–24**

Midwinter Recess (no school)

**February 28**

Parent-teacher conferences, afternoon

**February 29**

Parent-teacher conferences, evening

**April 6–13**

Spring Recess (no school)

**May 28**

Memorial Day observed (no school)

**June 7**

Chancellor's Conference Day  
(no school)

**June 27**

Last day of school; early dismissal

## Learn More

This guide provides only an overview of the many standards your child will be learning this year. You can view and download copies of these guides for grades pre-K–12 as well as the complete standards for all subjects and all grades on our Web site at [schools.nyc.gov/Academics](https://schools.nyc.gov/Academics).

The Department of Education offers additional information about your child's education and ideas on how you can support it, both at home and at your child's school. For more information, visit [schools.nyc.gov](https://schools.nyc.gov). You also can contact your school's parent coordinator or call 311.