

## Working with the “Instructional Shifts:” What Parents Can Do to Help their Children Learn

The new Indiana Academic Standards for College and Career Readiness asks teachers to make several major instructional “shifts” (or changes) in their classroom. These changes may be tough at first as students and teachers adjust to higher learning and performance expectations. As a parent, you can help and learn more by talking with your child about what they are learning. Ask open-ended questions about what they are learning in school each day, read their homework, and attend school events to learn about what their teachers expect.

This graphic below explains some of the ways that your child’s classroom is changing and how you can help; for more information, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher(s), school principal, or the Assistant Superintendent.

### The “Instructional Shifts”

English Language Arts/Literacy	Mathematics
Read as much non-fiction as fiction	Learn more about fewer, key topics ( <b>FOCUS</b> )
Learn about the world by reading	Build skills with and across grades ( <b>COHERENCY</b> )
Read more challenging material closely	Develop speed and accuracy ( <b>FLUENCY</b> )
Discuss reading using evidence	Really know it, Really do it ( <b>DEEP UNDERSTANDING</b> )
Write non-fiction using evidence	Use it in the real world ( <b>APPLICATION</b> )
Increase academic vocabulary	Think fast <b>AND</b> solve problems ( <b>DUAL INTENSITY</b> )

## English Language Arts & Literacy in other content areas: Expectations for Student & Ideas for Parents

What's the Shift?	Students must be able to...	What to look for in the backpack?	Parents can...
<b>Read as much non-fiction as fiction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read more <b>non-fiction</b></li> <li>● Know the ways non-fiction can be put together</li> <li>● <b>Enjoy</b> and discuss the details of non-fiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Look for your kids to have more reading assignments based on real-life events, such as biographies, articles and historical stories.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Supply more non-fiction text reading opportunities (<i>information, not stories</i>)</li> <li>● Read non-fiction texts <b>aloud or with</b> your child (<i>start with what interests your child – sports, hobbies, animals, space, etc.</i>)</li> <li>● Have <b>fun</b> with non-fiction in front of your children (<i>discuss information you learned from reading</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Learn about the world by reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Get smart in Science and Social Studies <b>through reading</b></li> <li>● Handle “primary source” documents</li> <li>● Get smarter through texts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Look for your kids to bring home more fact-based books about the world.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Supply series of texts on topics that interest your child</li> <li>● <b>Find books that explain</b> how things work and why</li> <li>● Discuss non-fiction texts and their ideas                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Go to the <a href="#">Library of Congress website</a> or the <a href="#">National Archives</a> for “primary source” and other non-fiction materials</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Read more challenging material closely</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Re-read</li> <li>● Read material at comfort level <b>AND</b> work with more challenging stuff</li> <li>● Unpack text</li> <li>● <b>Handle frustration</b> and keep pushing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Your kids will have reading and writing assignments that might ask them to retell or write about key parts of a story or book.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Provide more challenging texts</b> AND provide texts they WANT to read and can read comfortably</li> <li>● <b>Know</b> what is grade level appropriate</li> <li>● Read challenging books with your child</li> <li>● Show that challenging books are <b>worth</b> reading                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Go to a <a href="#">website with book lists</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Discuss reading using evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Find evidence to support their <b>arguments</b></li> <li>● Form judgments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Look for written assignments that ask your child to draw on concrete examples from the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Talk about texts (<i>simply ask a question to start a conversation about the text</i>)</li> <li>● <b>Require evidence</b> in every day</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Become <b>scholars</b></li> <li>● Discuss what the author is “up to”</li> <li>● <b>Ground responses in evidence</b> from the text</li> </ul>	<p>text that serve as evidence. Evidence means examples from the book that your child will use to support a response or conclusion. This is different from the opinion questions that have been used in the past.</p>	<p>discussions and disagreements (“<i>show me the evidence!</i>”)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read aloud or read the same book and discuss with evidence</li> <li>● Make and discuss predictions about the text</li> </ul>
<b>Write non-fiction using evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Make <b>arguments in writing</b> using evidence</li> <li>● Compare multiple texts in writing</li> <li>● Write well</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Look for writing assignments that ask your child to make arguments in writing using evidence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Encourage writing</b> at home or write together using evidence and detail</li> <li>● Review <a href="#">samples of excellent K-12 student writing</a></li> </ul>
<b>Increase academic vocabulary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Learn the words that they can use in college and career</li> <li>● Get smarter at using the “<b>language of power</b>”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Look for assignments that stretch your children’s vocabulary and teach them that “language is power.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Read often</b> and constantly with babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and children</li> <li>● Read multiple books about the same topic</li> <li>● Let your kids see you reading</li> <li>● Go ahead and use complex words and explain the meaning to young children, discuss it, or look it up if necessary.</li> <li>● Use reading as a form of communication</li> </ul>

## Mathematics: Expectations for Student & Ideas for Parents

What's the Shift?	What will students have to do?	What to look for in the backpack?	What can parents do to help?
<p><b>In each grade, learn more about fewer, key topics (FOCUS)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Spend more time on <b>fewer concepts</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Look for assignments that require students to show their work and explain how they arrived at an answer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Know what the priority work is for your child for their grade level</a></li> <li>● Spend time with our child on priority math concepts</li> <li>● Ask your child's teacher about their progress on priority math concepts and internet resources</li> </ul>
<p><b>Build skills and knowledge across grade levels (COHERENCE)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Keep building</b> on learning year after year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Look for assignments that build on one another. For example, students will focus on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Once these areas are mastered, they will focus on fractions. Building on that, they will then focus on Algebra. You should be able to see the progression in the topics they learn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Be aware of what your <b>child struggled with last year</b> and how that will affect learning this year</li> <li>● Advocate for your child and ensure that support is given for <b>"gap"</b> skills – negative numbers, fractions, decimals, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Develop speed and accuracy with simple calculations (FLUENCY)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Spend time <b>practicing</b> – lots of problems on the same idea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Look for assignments that ask your child to master math facts such as addition groupings up to 20 or multiplication tables.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fact fluency means <a href="#">children must first understand the relationships between numbers</a></li> <li>● Like sports and arts, practice matters! <b>Push children</b> to know, understand, as well as memorize basic math facts</li> <li>● Know all of the fluencies your child should have and prioritize learning of the ones they don't</li> </ul>

<p><b>Develop deep understanding beyond getting the answer correct (DEEP UNDERSTANDING)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>UNDERSTAND</b> why math works. <b>MAKE</b> the math work.</li> <li>● <b>TALK</b> about why the math works</li> <li>● <b>PROVE</b> that they know why and how the math works</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Your children might have assignments that ask them to show or explain their mathematical thinking - to SAY and WRITE why they think their answer is the right one.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Notice whether your child <b>REALLY</b> knows why the answer is what it is</li> <li>● Advocate for the <b>TIME</b> your child needs to learn key math</li> <li>● Provide <b>TIME</b> for your child to work hard with math at home</li> </ul>
<p><b>Use math in the real world (APPLICATION)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Apply math in <b>real world</b> situations</li> <li>● Know <b>which math</b> to use for which situation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Look for math assignments that are based on the real world. For instance, homework for 5<sup>th</sup> graders might include adding fractions as part of a dessert recipe or determining how much pizza friends ate based on fractions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ask your child to <b>DO</b> the math that comes up in your daily life</li> <li>● Easy examples include cooking ingredients; mileage from place to place; prices of food, clothing, and other goods</li> <li>● Anytime you can with your child, use fractions, decimals, percent, or try converting measurement (inches to feet; meters to yards; miles to kilometers)</li> <li>● Examples for older students include area, perimeter, rates, and ratios</li> <li>● Middle and high school students, try anything with a variable (i.e., rate x time = distance)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Think fast <u>AND</u> solve problems (DUAL INTENSITY)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Be able to use <b>core math facts</b> FAST</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Be able to apply math in the real world</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Notice which side of this coin your child is smart at and where he/she needs to <b>get smarter</b></li> <li>● Make sure your child is <b>PRACTICING</b> the math facts he/she struggles with</li> <li>● Make sure your child is thinking about Math in real life</li> </ul>

J. Bletzinger, 10/28/2014