### What are the Missouri Learning Standards?

- The Missouri Learning Standards initiative was a state-led effort to establish a shared set of clear academic standards for English language arts and mathematics that districts may voluntarily adopt. The standards have been created based on the best available evidence and the highest state standards across the country.

- The standards were created by a group of teachers, content experts, school administrators, and parents.

- The goal of the standards is to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to go to college or enter the workforce and that parents, teachers, and students have a clear understanding of what is expected from them.

- The standards are also benchmarked to international standards to guarantee that students are competitive in the emerging global marketplace.

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### On Common Ground

**Kindergarten, Trimester 1**

This newsletter provides an overview of what your child will learn on Missouri Learning Standards during the first trimester of kindergarten in reading, writing, and Mathematics. It also offers ideas to support your child’s learning at home.

### Reading

**At school, students will:**
- Recognize and name all uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
- Recognize and produce the sounds of letters.
- Recognize and produce rhyming words and syllables, as well as, sounds at the beginning, middle, and end of words.
- Understand the organization and basic features of books and print.
- Understand the relationship between illustrations and text in a book.
- Identify characters, setting, and major events in a story.
- Retell a story after listening to the story.

**At home, you can:**
- Read and discuss books together.
- Have children talk about what is happening in a book’s illustrations.
- Talk about characters, setting, and events when reading stories together.
- Practice naming letters and the sounds they make.
- Discuss the first, middle, and ending sounds of words used when speaking.

### Writing

**At school, students will:**
- Print upper- and lowercase letters.
- Use drawing and writing to explain or provide information.
- Recognize, name, and use end punctuation in writing sentences.
- Write and/or draw pictures about a specific topic and provide details about the topic.
- Respond to questions and suggestions from peers and add details to their writing.
- Describe familiar people, places, things, and events.
- Add drawings to descriptions to provide additional detail.

**At home, you can:**
- Practice correctly forming the letters of the alphabet.
- Set up a writing station at home where children can write and draw. Provide paper, markers, crayons, and other materials to encourage writing and drawing.
- Work together to write/draw real-life situations, such as creating a grocery list or writing a letter to someone.

### Mathematics

**At school, students will:**
- Count an amount of objects up to 20 that have been arranged in a line, circle, or equal rows.
- Learn the names of shapes and find them in their environment even when their size and orientation is unusual or different.
- Learn position words, such as above, below, beside, in front of, behind, and next to.
- Compare two groups of objects and determine if the number of objects in one group is greater than, is less than, or is equal to the other.
- Compare two numbers between 1 and 10 presented as written numerals.
- Write numbers 0 - 20

**At home, you can:**
- Count objects around the house or at the store.
- Use and practice position words, such as above, below, beside, in front of, behind, and next to with your child.
- Practice writing numbers 0-20 with appropriate number formation
- Post a calendar where child can see it.
- Play board games that involve counting.
- Practice comparing two groups of objects (at snack or dinner time) and say which group has more, less or is equal.