

SAU9 Fourth Grade Competencies Explained

Competency refers to a student's ability to transfer and apply knowledge and skills in and across content areas. They represent the big ideas and are assessed at multiple times over the course of a school year. Below is an overview of the different competencies (in bold), as well as some of the related standards.

LITERACY

Foundational Reading – Students will read to make meaning, using a variety of strategies, applying and extending foundational literacy skills. They will be able to:

- Apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills to accurately decode unfamiliar multisyllabic words in context and out of context
- Read accurately and purposefully with appropriate rate and expression, self-correcting and rereading when necessary

Reading Literary & Informational Texts – Students will make meaning of increasingly complex literary and informational texts, and provide text details to support interpretations and analyses. They will be able to:

- Refer to details and examples in a text when making inferences
- Determine the themes of and summarize stories, dramas, or poems
- Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text
- Compare/contrast the point of view from which stories are narrated
- Explain differences among poems, drama, prose, and informational text
- Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes, topics, and patterns of events in texts from different cultures
- Determine the main idea and explain how key details support it
- Determine the meanings of unknown words and phrases
- Interpret and explain information presented in different ways (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, timelines, animations, etc.)
- Integrate information from two texts on the same topic

Writing – Students will write effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences. They will be able to:

- Write coherent, well-developed opinion pieces
- Write organized informative texts with appropriate development
- Write coherent narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using descriptive details, and clear event sequences
- Strengthen writing through planning, revision and editing
- Use technology to collaborate on, produce, and publish writing

- Draw evidence from text to support analysis, reflection, and research

Language – Students will demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and mechanics in writing and speaking. They will be able to:

- Produce complete sentences, correcting fragments and run-ons
- Use spelling patterns and generalizations
- Use punctuation and capitalization appropriately
- Determine and clarify meanings of words and phrases, and choosing to use those words for effect when speaking and writing

Speaking & Listening – Students will initiate and effectively participate in a range of discussions, critically listening and speaking effectively, clearly and persuasively. They will be able to:

- Pose and respond to questions to clarify understanding and make comments that contribute to the discussion
- Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats
- Report clearly on a topic/text, in an organized manner using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, at an understandable pace by speaking publicly or using multimedia

MATHEMATICS

Symbolic Expression – Students will reason abstractly and quantitatively, recognizing and using mathematical symbols and expressions for a variety of purposes, including variables. They will be able to:

- Use the four operations to solve problems using drawings, symbols, or letters to represent unknown numbers
- Use visual models to explain fraction equivalence and ordering

Numbers & Number Systems – Students will think flexibly and attend to precision and reasonableness when solving problems using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. They will be able to:

- Find factor pairs and multiples within 100
- Understand and compare decimals and fractions
- Read, write and compare whole numbers up to 1,000,000
- Understand and compare fractions with different denominators

Reasoning & Computational Strategies – Students will apply reasoning and using multiple strategies to solve problems. They will be able to:

- Fluently add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers to solve problems
- Use place value to solve multi-digit multiplication and division problems

SAU9 Fourth Grade Competencies Explained

- Compare decimals to the hundredths place
- Multiply fractions by whole numbers
- Understand the relationship between fractions and decimals

Measurement – Students will use measurement tools, units, and attributes to describe and compare objects, situations, or events, and to solve authentic applied measurement problems. They will be able to:

- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements
- Use area and perimeter formulas for rectangles in real world problems
- Understand concepts relating to the measurement of angles

Geometry – Students will recognize and use attributes of two- and three-dimensional figures to solve problems. They will be able to:

- Draw and identify perpendicular and parallel lines, points, line segments, rays and right, acute, and obtuse angles
- Recognize and categorize different types of angles and triangles
- Recognize and draw lines of symmetry

Algebraic Functions, Patterns & Relations – Students will represent, analyze, and generalize change or patterns using models and justifications.

Data Analysis, Probability & Statistics – Students will gather, represent and interpret data.

SCIENCE

Students will demonstrate their understanding of scientific concepts and how they are connected through the application of science and engineering practices. They will study topics relating to Earth, Physical and Life sciences.

- Earth Science: Solve problems relating to the effects of weathering and natural Earth processes on Earth's features
- Physical Science: Support evidence based explanations about the flow of energy within and between systems; Model patterns and impacts of waves
- Life Science: Model how plant and animal structures support growth, behavior and reproduction

SOCIAL STUDIES

Civics & Government – Students will understand why society needs rules, laws and government. They will examine responsibilities of citizens at the local, state, and national level.

Geography – Students will analyze maps to understand the ways in which geographic features influence life in different places.

History – Students will apply and demonstrate knowledge of major eras, individuals and/or groups who have profoundly affected life in the United States.

RESEARCH

Students will develop and present short, research-based projects which synthesize information from multiple sources.

WORK STUDY PRACTICES

Communication – Students will be able to share their work using a variety of tools, ask questions to learn more and ask for help when needed.

Creativity – Students will be able to use original and flexible thinking to communicate ideas and construct unique products and solutions. They will take risks in their learning, consider alternative perspectives and incorporate diverse resources.

Collaboration – Students can work with a group and complete a job. They can listen to others, respecting their ideas, and also express their own ideas.

Self-Direction - Students can work through a challenge, setting goals, asking for help, identifying areas for improvement, and completing a job.