

Texas First Grade Guidelines Checklist

English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR)

Foundational Reading Skills

- ☐ Identifies and uses all letter sounds (phonics)
- ☐ Blends and segments one-syllable words
- ☐ Reads high-frequency words automatically
- ☐ Reads aloud grade-level text with fluency and accuracy
- ☐ Uses decoding strategies (context clues, phonics, pictures)

Reading Comprehension

- ☐ Retells stories including beginning, middle, and end
- ☐ Identifies characters, setting, and plot
- ☐ Makes and confirms predictions
- ☐ Determines the main idea and supporting details
- ☐ Identifies text features (titles, headings, labels)

Writing

- ☐ Writes legibly with proper spacing and punctuation
- ☐ Uses capitalization and punctuation (periods, question marks)
- ☐ Spells words using sound-letter correspondence
- ☐ Writes brief stories with a clear beginning, middle, and end
- ☐ Revises and edits simple drafts with guidance

Listening & Speaking

- ☐ Listens actively and responds appropriately
- ☐ Asks and answers relevant questions
- ☐ Participates in group discussions respectfully



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Mathematics

Number and Operations

- ☐ Counts forward and backward within 120
- ☐ Uses place value to represent numbers up to 120
- ☐ Compares numbers using $>$, $<$, or $=$
- ☐ Adds and subtracts within 20 with accuracy
- ☐ Solves word problems involving addition/subtraction
- ☐ Understands and applies properties of operations (commutative, associative)

Algebraic Reasoning

- ☐ Understands patterns and uses them to predict
- ☐ Applies basic facts to solve problems

Geometry and Measurement

- ☐ Identifies and describes 2D and 3D shapes
- ☐ Measures length using nonstandard and standard units
- ☐ Tells time to the hour and half-hour
- ☐ Understands calendar concepts (days, weeks, months)
- ☐ Uses money concepts to identify and count coins

Data Analysis

- ☐ Collects and organizes data into graphs or charts
- ☐ Interprets data to answer questions

Social Studies

History

- ☐ Understands and retells stories of historical figures
- ☐ Explains significance of national holidays (e.g., July 4th)

Geography

- ☐ Uses maps, globes, and location words (near, far, north, etc.)



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- ☐ Identifies landforms and bodies of water

Economics

- ☐ Understands the concepts of needs, wants, goods, and services
- ☐ Identifies ways people earn, save, and spend money

Citizenship & Government

- ☐ Follows classroom and community rules
- ☐ Identifies leaders in the community, state, and nation
- ☐ Recites and understands the Pledge of Allegiance

Science

Scientific Investigation

- ☐ Asks scientific questions and makes predictions
- ☐ Conducts simple experiments and records observations
- ☐ Uses tools like magnifiers, thermometers, and balances

Matter and Energy

- ☐ Identifies properties of objects (size, shape, texture)
- ☐ Sorts materials by observable properties

Force, Motion & Energy

- ☐ Describes how objects move (push, pull, roll, slide)
- ☐ Understands basic energy sources (light, heat, sound)

Earth and Space

- ☐ Describes weather patterns and seasonal changes
- ☐ Identifies and explains day/night cycle

Organisms and Environments

- ☐ Identifies basic needs of plants and animals
- ☐ Compares living and non-living things



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Fine Arts

Visual Arts

- ☐ Uses a variety of tools and materials to create art
- ☐ Describes personal artwork and art of others

Music

- ☐ Explores rhythm, beat, and melody
- ☐ Sings songs and performs simple patterns

Theater & Movement

- ☐ Participates in role-play and storytelling
- ☐ Expresses ideas through movement

Physical Education and Health

Motor Development

- ☐ Demonstrates balance and coordination
- ☐ Participates in group games and physical activities

Health & Wellness

- ☐ Understands healthy food choices
- ☐ Practices hygiene and safety rules
- ☐ Demonstrates awareness of feelings and appropriate expression

Technology Applications

- ☐ Opens and uses simple software/apps
- ☐ Uses a keyboard and mouse or touchscreen
- ☐ Understands the role of technology in everyday life
- ☐ Practices safe use of digital tools



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