

# Family Guide

for

# ACAP

# SUCCESS



# AMSTI

Alabama Math, Science,  
and Technology Initiative

## Elementary School

# MATH

### FAMILIES + SCHOOLS = STUDENT SUCCESS

Support at home is vital to the success of students. This Family Guide for Student Success shares important information to help support your student as they prepare to take the new Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) statewide summative assessment. Annual statewide testing helps determine which students and schools need extra support. The ACAP will be administered to all students in Grades 2-8 in the spring. Specific dates will be announced by your school. You can help your child's academic growth by reinforcing classroom activities and productive study habits at home. It is only through your support and active participation in your child's education that we form a partnership for success for all the children in Alabama.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Encourage your child to finish the school year strong! Stay informed about ongoing learning, and discuss it at home.
- Create a distraction-free study zone. Study time needs to be efficient, productive, and focused.
- Monitor your student's smart device usage. It is estimated that kids spend one-third of their day using their smart devices.
- Ensure your student gets plenty of sleep. Lack of sleep makes it difficult for people to retain and recall information.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONTENT PRIORITIES

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn in elementary school mathematics. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, they will be well-prepared for the next grade level. Elementary school mathematics focuses on essential areas, all of which have equal importance:



#### Operations with Numbers: Fractions

In Grades 3-5, your child can understand the meaning of fractions and perform operations according to grade level expectations.



#### Operations and Algebraic Thinking

Your child can flexibly perform operations with whole numbers and apply understanding to real world situations.



#### Data Analysis

Your child can represent and interpret data to solve problems using numbers and operations.



#### Measurement & Geometry

Your child can understand different measurement systems. They can identify and draw shapes and angles by properties.

# ACAP Highlights

Annual statewide testing allows educators, parents, and policy makers to identify students who are struggling, effective teaching strategies, and where to invest the school's limited resources. Annual testing of students makes it clear that every student matters and acknowledges achievement and opportunity gaps. The Grade 2 assessment will be used specifically as baseline data for Grade 3 growth and not for accountability purposes.

## ACAP Testing Logistics and Helpful Hints

- The test will be administered 100% online. No filling in bubbles!
- Students will NOT be allowed the use of calculators in Grades 2-5.
- The test has four types of questions: multiple choice, multiple select, short answer, and technology enhanced. Have your student practice the types of questions prior to taking the ACAP. [wbte.drcedirect.com/AL/portals/al](http://wbte.drcedirect.com/AL/portals/al)
- Students in Grades 4-8 are provided a reference sheet with formulas, forms of equations, and a conversion chart. Make sure your student knows where to locate important information on the reference sheet prior to taking the ACAP.

## Recovering from a Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to recognize students' social and emotional factors that might affect their academic performance. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process of developing a student's self-awareness, self-management, teamwork skills, and responsible decision-making. Strategies to support SEL at home:

- Be an active listener.
- Help your child express their emotions by identifying their feelings.
- Model managing stress, disappointment, anger, conflict resolution, and empathy.

For more information, check out AMSTI's Family and Parent Playbook, which can be found at [AMSTI.org](http://AMSTI.org).

## What is AMSTI?

The Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative, commonly referred to as AMSTI, is the Alabama Department of Education's initiative to improve STEM teaching & learning statewide. Its mission is to support Alabama educators and students in learning STEM by doing STEM. Check us out by scanning the QR Code or visiting [AMSTI.org](http://AMSTI.org).



**"Assessment is the engine which drives student learning."**

- John Cowan

### HOMEWORK & EXAM PREP HELP



#### AMSTI

Quick links for family resources to do math at home

[AMSTI.org](http://AMSTI.org)



#### Khan Academy

Instructional math videos with interactive guided practice

[khanacademy.com](http://khanacademy.com)



#### Math Help

Instructional math videos with interactive guided practice & self assessment

[mathhelp.com](http://mathhelp.com)



#### PBS Learning

Direct access to videos and interactive mathematics

[pbslearningmedia.org/student/](http://pbslearningmedia.org/student/)



#### Link to Practice

Practice for the type of questions on the ACAP

[wbte.drcedirect.com/AL/portals/al](http://wbte.drcedirect.com/AL/portals/al)