

A Parent's Guide to Practice the Essential Skills Tests in Language Arts & Math



Beatrice Public Schools
Student Programs Office

How does Beatrice Public Schools prepare students to take the tests?

Our goal is to see that every student who attends Beatrice Public Schools is provided with the necessary knowledge and skills to meet the Essential Skills requirements. The skills are practiced in each classroom.

Questions?

For information about the test, or test dates, first talk to your child's teachers or principal. If you need additional information contact the school's curriculum office.

Reading Practice...

- ✓ Have reading materials available, including newspapers, magazines and books.
- ✓ Encourage your son or daughter to use the library and all its resources.
- ✓ Ask the librarian to suggest appropriate books and magazines for your child's age and interests.
- ✓ Set aside time every day to read with your child and discuss what you have read.
- ✓ Use television or movie versions of books to encourage your child to read the story.
- ✓ Provide a moderately quiet environment for reading.
- ✓ Discuss reading, current events, television programs, during times together: mealtimes, car trips, etc.
- ✓ Ask your child to get information from the phone book, road maps, recipes, follow directions together.

*Things you can do to help
your child practice for
the tests.....*

At Home



Writing Practice...

- ✍ Encourage your son or daughter to do all homework that is assigned to help improve writing skills.
- ✍ Provide a quiet corner for your child to write; if possible, give your son or daughter a regular place for doing school-related work.
- ✍ Supply the writer's tools: paper, pencils, pens, markers, notebooks and a dictionary and thesaurus if possible.
- ✍ Encourage your child to read. Reading helps improve writing skills and is an essential part of any effective writing program.
- ✍ Encourage your child to write for real purposes. Some possibilities include:

a grocery list	refrigerator notes
phone messages	thank you notes
letter to the editor	daily journal

Mathematics Practice...

- ◆ Encourage your child to study mathematics with other students. Working together on mathematics increases achievement levels and improves learning, study, and communication skills.
- ◆ Encourage your child to do at least some math homework every day and as soon after school as possible. Getting behind in math may become a serious handicap to future academic success.
- ◆ Expect your child to be successful in mathematics and give praise generously for all achievements, even small ones.
- ◆ Give your child practice using a calculator. Ask him or her to add a list of prices from a catalog, calculate mileage or percentages. Ask - Does your answer look reasonable? Does it make sense?
- ◆ Encourage your child to try various strategies to solve problems including: drawing a picture, acting it out, making a list, or working backwards.
- ◆ Encourage your child to make estimations - at the grocery store, at fast food restaurants, in the kitchen while cooking.
- ◆ Encourage your child to work with spatial relationships including: planting a garden, rearranging a room, etc.