

# Handwriting

Teaching students the mechanics of handwriting provides an essential foundation for school success. In Highland Park ISD, it is an integral part of our curriculum. Our goal is to provide explicit instruction in the processes and techniques of writing legibly and efficiently across the curriculum.

In the beginning years of school, it is important to teach students writing habits that will result in fluent and legible handwriting so they do not have to labor when forming letters and are free to concentrate on what they are writing.

Handwriting (manuscript) will generally be accomplished in Kindergarten and first grade. Handwriting (forming letters on paper) is not writing (forming ideas). Handwriting facilitates writing. When students are not struggling with letter formation, they are able to write fluently. Cursive handwriting is introduced in second and third grades.

*Attention to helping students acquire smooth, efficient movements in handwriting is essential. Writing must be:*

- *Legible, with letters conforming to standard features so that the words are readable (decipherable)*
- *Organized in lines with space.*
- *Produced with some fluency so that the writer does not have to tolerate too much mechanical difficulty (Fountas/Pinnell)*

## **The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) are as follows:**

- 17(A) Kindergarten: form upper and lower case letters
- 21(A) First: form upper and lower case letters, left to right and top to bottom progressions and spacing (between letters and between words)
- 22(A) Second: write legibly with appropriate spacing and margins
- 23(A) Third: write legibly with cursive with correct spacing
- 21(A) Fourth: write legibly by selecting cursive or manuscript when appropriate

*Students are held accountable for fluent, legible handwriting as they progress the remaining grades in school.*

Resources:

- Texas State Standards: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
- Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Resource Books
- Research-based, best practices as cited by leading experts in the field of literacy