

How to Skip a Grade

Explore this Article ■ [Checking out the Next Grade Level](#) ■ [Showing that You're Ready to Skip a Grade](#) ■ [Asking to Skip a Grade](#) ■ [Expert Q&A](#) ■ [Tips and Warnings](#) ■ [References](#)

Co-authored by **Emily Listmann, MA** and **69 contributors**

Last Updated: December 8, 2021

If you find that your current grade level (in elementary through high school) is not providing you with much of an academic challenge, skipping a grade may be the solution. Although skipping a grade is not a common practice, school administrators may be willing to allow this option for gifted students. You'll need to make sure that you are academically prepared for such a jump. You will also need to consider social ramifications to going up a grade, which do impact your education. Speak with your parents, teachers and academic counselor to see if they think it's a smart choice, or if there are other options for you.

Part
1

Part 1 of 3: Checking out the Next Grade Level



1 Look at the curriculum for the next grade level. Ask one of your current teachers or administrators if you could flip through the educational materials for the grade two ahead of your own. Look through as much academic material as possible (for example, tests and reading assignments) to see if you're close to understanding the concepts in the next grade.^[1]

- You might change your mind about skipping a grade based on this, or you might come away even more convinced that it's the right choice.
- For instance, if you readily understand the Quadratic Formula, maybe you can skip pre-algebra.
- If you're already reading books for English class at a fast pace, the text assigned at the next grade level might provide a better challenge.
- If you can look through tests for the next grade level (e.g. for science or social studies classes), look to see that the material looks challenging but not impossible.



2 Consider the social impact. Going up a grade is not just about academics; there is also the social interaction with other students to consider. Schools are where most individuals become socialized outside of the home, and social skills, life experiences, and the like are as valuable as academics. As a result, in many places in the world, schools try to keep students with peers and adjust the academics, rather than place a student out in an advanced setting.

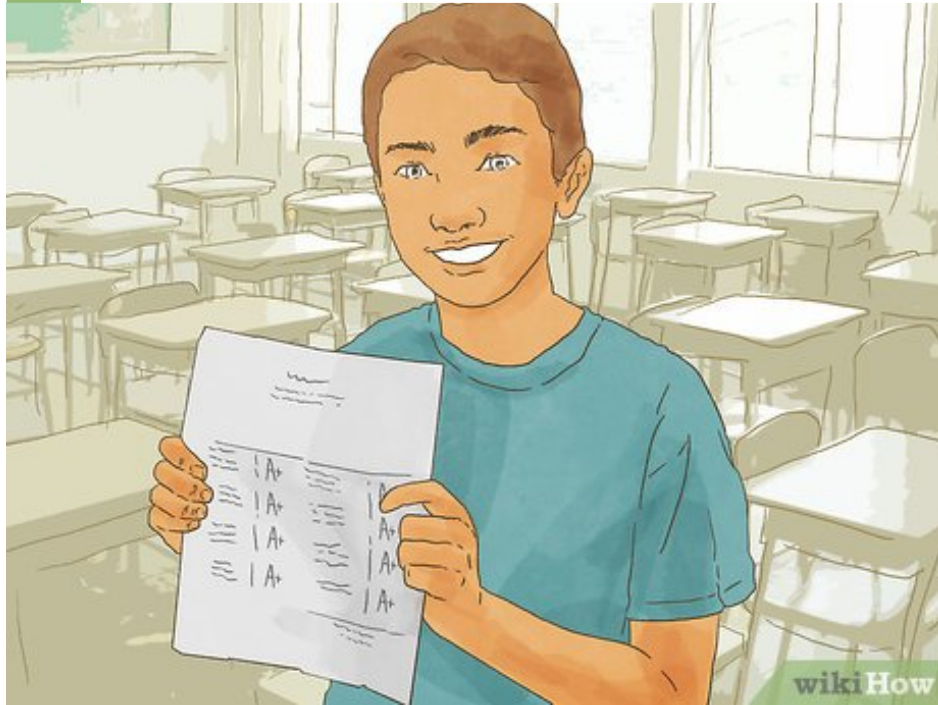
- Skipping a grade means you will be placed with students likely older and more mature than your current level. If you are less developed and mature, that can be a problem. Immature students are likely to have trouble developing relationships with more mature peers.
- Changing grades doesn't mean that you'll lose old friends, but it will likely impact your relationships.^[2] It may not be worth moving up a grade if it means leaving all of your current friendships behind.
- Going up a grade in order to avoid peer interactions is unlikely to be a good move. Instead of working through problems, learning social skills, maturing, and the like, trying to opt out will likely not serve you in later life.
- Skipping grade can also play out in your later school career in ways you have not considered. For example, after high school graduation, would you still be under 18? If so, that can greatly affect what you do after high school. For example, the military, many universities, and some employers will often not accept minors. You could be academically ready for the challenge but because of your age not be able to take the next step anyway.^[3]



3 Think about the effect on extracurricular activities. Think about if skipping ahead a grade will cause you to miss out on extracurricular activities like intramural sports, drama club, yearbook club, or marching band. While moving ahead in school won't necessarily cause you to lose out on extracurricular subjects, it might complicate your schedule enough to keep you from participating. If a team is based on grade and not age, you may be competing with older and likely better players.^[4]

- These elements of school are often just as important as the classes you're in, and skipping a grade may effect your ability to participate in certain activities.
- Skipping a grade may mean you also give up time on a school team. If you graduate early, you also give up your eligibility for the field hockey team, orchestra, or debate as well.

Part 2 of 3: Showing that You're Ready to Skip a Grade



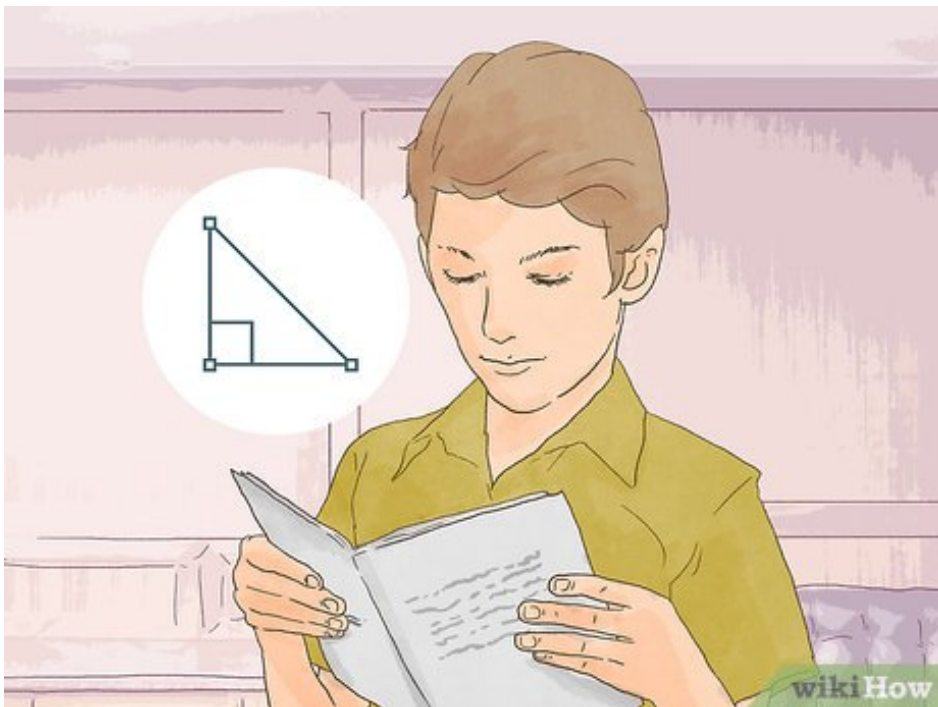
1 Raise your grades and GPA. It will be difficult to convince school administrators that you're ready to skip a grade if you are receiving poor grades. Work to raise your grades—you should be earning all "A"s. By showing that you're skilled at your current level, you can prove that you're ready for the next grade.^[5]

- Do not slack off in your current grade because you are bored, even if the work is easy. Letting your grades slip or not turning in homework may count against you in a grade promotion consideration.



2 Be active in class. Demonstrating that you are a good learner and an eager student will show your teachers that you are ready for a more challenging grade.^[6] Be sure to ask questions that demonstrate your higher understanding, but do not be rude, disruptive, or sarcastic.

- Make sure homework and all class work is turned in on time, even if you feel like the work is too easy or beneath your level.



3 Research higher level skills that you don't understand. If you ask to skip a grade, parents and school administrators will look to see that you can motivate yourself to learn. If you can teach yourself things that you haven't yet learned in the classroom, this will indicate that you may be ready for a higher grade level.^[7]

- For example, if you'd like to skip from 7th grade to 8th grade but haven't learned trigonometry, borrow a textbook and master some of the core concepts.

4 Study during the summer. Depending on your school, you may be able to take classes during the summer. This can help you learn things that will be taught in the grade you'll be skipping over. If you can't take classes, spend the summer learning independently to improve your academic skills.

Part
3

**Part 3 of 3:
Asking to Skip a Grade**



1 Wait until the end of the first semester (or quarter). Rather than asking to skip a grade in the first week of school, wait until about half the year has passed.^[8] You may change your mind after you see some of the challenges in your current grade. If you still find your grade easy after the first semester, you're ready to look into skipping.

- Often the first few weeks are essentially review, and then as new concepts are introduced, the class can become much more interesting.
- Make sure you're earning good grades while evaluating the difficulty of the grade level you're in.



2 **Talk to your parents, teachers, and the school counselor.** You will not be able to skip a grade without the approval of your parents (or legal guardian) and the school. Speak to your current teachers to find out if they think you're ready to move up. Explain your reasoning for wanting to skip a grade, and use your excellent work in the classroom to show that you're ready for more challenging material.^[9]

- For example, say something like, "I've found all of my work in 5th grade simple so far, and think that I would be more challenged in 6th grade. I've already looked through most of the 6th grade textbooks, and think I can learn that material quickly."



3 Look into methods of independent study. If your administrators aren't willing to allow you to skip a grade, they may have other means of helping you excel. Schools often work with gifted students by providing "Gifted and Talented" courses or after-school activities.^[10] Depending on your age, your school may offer:

- Online classes.
- An independent study: self-directed learning (with the oversight of a teacher) of a particular field of interest.
- Classes through a local community college, university, or trade school.
- Some high schools offer credit for internships at local businesses, or non-profit organizations. For example, perhaps you can intern at a local community center, real estate office, an animal shelter, historical site, or library.



4 Consider homeschooling as an option. Many homeschooled students are able to skip one or more years of school by advancing at a rapid pace. Although this will require a great deal of work on your—and your parents’—part, it may be an efficient way to skip a grade.

- If you’d like to skip a grade but the school administrators won’t allow you, you could take a year off, homeschool, and return the following year at a higher grade level.
- For example, if you’ve finished 2nd grade, you could homeschool 3rd and 4th grade in a single school year and return to your original school for 5th grade.



Expert Q&A

Question

I asked about skipping 8th grade. They said I would have to score a 98 on the state test. Any ideas on what I should do now?



Emily Listmann, MA
Test Prep Tutor
Expert Answer

Research what the state test is and what it tests. If you can find practice tests or copies of previous versions of the test, that is a great start to preparing. There may also be study guides for the test that you can purchase

Helpful 94 Not Helpful 18

Question

Can I skip seventh grade if I am already in it?



Emily Listmann, MA
Test Prep Tutor
Expert Answer

It is unlikely but may be possible. This would be up to the discretion of your school administration, counselors, or teachers.

Helpful 73 Not Helpful 22

Question

How should I behave if I want to skip a grade?



Community Answer

If you want to skip a grade, you need to act more mature than you already are. If you act like the class clown, your teacher or guardian may say no. Be on your best behavior and get good grades.

Helpful 311 Not Helpful 31

Question

What if my counselor said no to skipping a grade?



Community Answer

If your counselor consistently says no, then talk to your parents about how to convince them. Consistently saying that your grade is simple and having the grades to back that claim up should help you make an argument for skipping a grade.

Helpful 229 Not Helpful 31

Question

Can I choose to skip a grade in the summer?



Community Answer

You can, but don't wait until the day before school to take action. Get in touch with your school counselor and try to make the decision before classes begin.

Helpful 177 Not Helpful 27

Question

Can I skip 8th grade?



Community Answer

Skipping a grade requires testing as well as parental approval and sometimes approval from the school's principal. Another important variable is determining if your maturity level would qualify you to skip a grade.

Helpful 228 Not Helpful 46

Question

Is it possible to skip middle school? I get all A's and I study high school online.



Community Answer

Yes, it is possible. You'll need to take placement tests, and your advisors will have to agree that you are emotionally ready, but it is possible. Talk to your parents about it.

Helpful 64 Not Helpful 8

Question

Can you skip a grade in only one class, for example, if you were advanced in French?



Community Answer

In most schools, yes. Just talk to your parents and the school about it and prove that you qualify for the next level.

Helpful 134 Not Helpful 24

Question

What if all your friends are in your current grade? Should you sacrifice friends for education?



Community Answer

It's really up to you. Moving to a different grade doesn't necessarily mean sacrificing your friends - you can still be friends and hang out outside of school. And you will likely make new friends in your new class.

Helpful 124 Not Helpful 21

Question

How do you skip 5th grade?



Community Answer

To skip 5th grade, you need to know the 5th grade curriculum and be comfortable learning 6th grade material.

Helpful 160 Not Helpful 32

[See more answers](#)



Tips

- When reviewing a textbook, be sure to review the whole thing. Especially in American textbooks, the first several chapters are usually a review from the previous grade.
- Going ahead a grade may be most successful in a transitional year.^[11] For example, in a year in which you are moving into a new school system or from elementary school to middle school.
- If you find you're stressing yourself out while trying to skip a grade level, it's possible that you're at the grade level you should be at. In this case, there's no need to rush through your studies.



Warnings

- Take your time with this choice; skipping a grade is a big decision. If you choose to skip, there's no way to undo the choice.

References

1. ↑ <https://www.education.com/magazine/article/skipping-grades/>
2. ↑ <https://www.care.com/c/stories/3226/how-to-skip-a-grade-is-your-child-ready/>
3. ↑ <http://www.metrokids.com/MetroKids/Education/Should-Your-Gifted-Child-Skip-a-Grade/>
4. ↑ <https://www.noodle.com/articles/how-to-skip-a-grade-the-pros-and-cons-to-consider>
5. ↑ <https://www.education.com/magazine/article/skipping-grades/>
6. ↑ <https://www.education.com/magazine/article/skipping-grades/>
7. ↑ <https://www.education.com/magazine/article/skipping-grades/>
8. ↑ <https://www.education.com/magazine/article/skipping-grades/>
9. ↑ <https://www.noodle.com/articles/how-to-skip-a-grade-the-pros-and-cons-to-consider>
10. ↑ <https://www.noodle.com/articles/how-to-skip-a-grade-the-pros-and-cons-to-consider>
11. ↑ <https://www.care.com/c/stories/3226/how-to-skip-a-grade-is-your-child-ready/>

About This Article



Co-authored by:
Emily Listmann, MA
Test Prep Tutor

This article was co-authored by **Emily Listmann, MA**. Emily Listmann is a private tutor in San Carlos, California. She has worked as a Social Studies Teacher, Curriculum Coordinator, and an SAT Prep Teacher. She received her MA in Education from the Stanford Graduate School of Education in 2014. This article has been viewed 357,509 times.

★★★★☆
209 votes - 81%

Co-authors: **69**
Updated: **December 8, 2021**
Views: **357,509**

Categories: **School Stuff**

<https://www.wikihow.com/Skip-a-Grade>

The text and visual content in this PDF is intended only for your personal, non-commercial use. Any commercial reproduction of the contents of this document without the express written permission of wikiHow, Inc., is prohibited.