

Introduction

Development of K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for English Language Arts

The Louisiana English language arts student standards were created by over one hundred Louisiana educators with input by thousands of parents and teachers from across the state. Educators envisioned what proficient students should know and be able to do to compete in our society and focused their efforts on creating standards that would allow them to do so. The new standards provide appropriate content for all grades, maintain high expectations, and create a logical connection of content across and within grades.

English Language Arts Goal

The goal for students in English language arts (ELA) is to:

- Read
- Understand complex, grade-level texts
- Express their understanding of those texts through writing and speaking.

Students in Louisiana are ready for college or a career if they can read, understand, and express their understanding of complex, grade-level texts. This means students should be able to pick up any text, such as a picture book, newspaper article, or painting, understand what the text means, and be able to speak or write about the ideas they learned or challenge from the text and why.

The Louisiana Student Standards are (1) research and evidence based, (2) aligned with college and work expectations, (3) rigorous, and (4) internationally benchmarked. A particular standard was included in the document only when the best available evidence indicated that its mastery was essential for college and career readiness in a twenty-first-century, globally competitive society.

The goal of the *Louisiana Student Standards for English Language Arts (ELA)* is to produce a literate person in the twenty-first century. A literate person in the twenty-first century should:

- demonstrate independence in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use;
- build strong content knowledge through reading and writing;
- adapt to the demands of various audiences, tasks, purposes, and subjects;
- comprehend as well as critique;
- cite specific evidence and evaluate others' use of evidence;
- use technology and digital media strategically and capably;
- understand other perspectives and cultures.

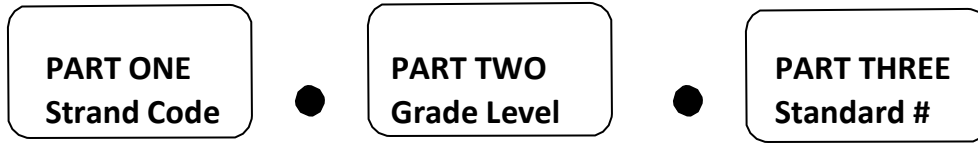
The Standards for ELA/Literacy establish grade-level expectations for all students meaning *what* students will learn. Decisions about *how* to teach these expectations are left up to local districts, schools, and teachers.

Reading the Standards and Interpreting their Codes

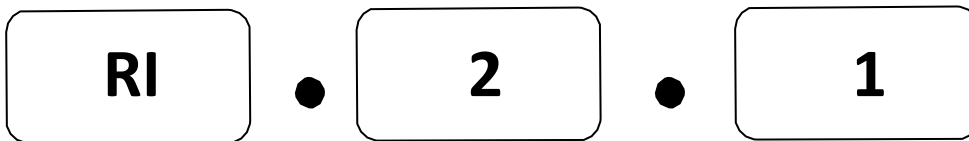
It is important for those using the standards to understand the terminology used. The purpose of this section is to explore the terminology used in the Standards for ELA/Literacy.

Standard Coding

There are three parts to a Louisiana Student Standard code for ELA and Literacy, and each part is separated by periods:



Example:



In the example above, the strand code “RI” stands for “Reading Standards for Informational Text.” The number 2 refers to the fact that this is a second grade standard, and the number 1 tells you this standard refers back to anchor standard 1: “Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.”

If a standard is subdivided, the Standards use letters. The standard number, then, would be followed by a letter. For example, Language Standard 1 for grade 2 has letters “a-f” underneath it. A code for this standard, then, would include the letter to indicate which part of the standard is included in the lesson, such as L.2.1c.

There are nine strand codes in the Louisiana Student Standards for ELA:

Abbreviation	Meaning	Abbreviation	Meaning
RL	Reading Strands for Literature	L	Language
RI	Reading Strands for Informational Text	RH	Reading Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies 6 – 12
RF	Reading Standards: Foundational Skills	RST	Reading Standards for Science and Technical Subjects 6 – 12
W	Writing	WHST	Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects 6 – 12
SL	Speaking and Listening		

Reading Standards for Literature

The following standards offer a focus for instruction each year and help ensure that students gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is also infused through the requirement that students read increasingly complex texts through the grades. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

Key Ideas and Details

1. Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
2. a. Retell stories, including key details.
b. Recognize and understand the central message or lesson.
3. Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.

Craft and Structure

4. Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.
5. Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information, drawing on a wide reading of a range of text types.
6. Identify who is telling the story at various points in a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.
8. (Not applicable to literature)
9. Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. With prompting and support, read prose and poetry of appropriate complexity for grade 1.

Reading Standards for Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

1. Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
2. Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.
3. Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.

Craft and Structure

4. Ask and answer questions to help determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases in a text.
5. Know and use various text features (e.g., headings, tables of contents, glossaries, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text.
6. Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.
8. Identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.
9. Identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic (e.g., in illustrations, descriptions, or procedures).

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. With prompting and support read informational texts appropriately complex for grade 1.

Reading Standards for Foundational Skills

These standards are directed toward fostering students' understanding and working knowledge of concepts of print, the alphabetic principle, and other basic conventions of the English writing system. These foundational skills are not an end in and of themselves; rather, they are necessary and important components of an effective, comprehensive reading program designed to develop proficient readers with the capacity to comprehend texts across a range of types and disciplines. Instruction should be differentiated: good readers will need much less practice with these concepts than struggling readers will. The point is to teach students what they need to learn and not what they already know— to discern when particular children or activities warrant more or less attention.

Print Concepts

1. Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.
 - a. Recognize the distinguishing features of a sentence (e.g., first word, capitalization, ending punctuation).

Phonological Awareness

2. Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).
 - a. Distinguish long from short vowel sounds in spoken single-syllable words.
 - b. Orally produce single-syllable words by blending sounds (phonemes), including consonant blends.
 - c. Isolate and pronounce initial, medial vowel, and final sounds (phonemes) in spoken single-syllable words.
 - d. Segment spoken single-syllable words into their complete sequence of individual sounds (phonemes).

Phonics and Word Recognition

3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
 - a. Know the spelling-sound correspondences for common consonant digraphs.
 - b. Decode regularly spelled one-syllable words.
 - c. Know final -e and common vowel team conventions for representing long vowel sounds.
 - d. Use knowledge that every syllable must have a vowel sound to determine the number of syllables in a printed word.
 - e. Decode two-syllable words following basic patterns by breaking the words into syllables.
 - f. Read words with inflectional endings.
 - g. Recognize and read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.

Fluency

4. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
 - a. Read on-level text¹ with purpose and understanding.
 - b. Read on-level text² orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings.
 - c. Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

¹ "On-level text" means grade level text.

² "On-level text" means grade level text.

Writing Standards

The following standards for offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. Each year in their writing, students should demonstrate increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use, from vocabulary and syntax to the development and organization of ideas, and they should address increasingly demanding content and sources. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

Text Types and Purposes

1. Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.
3. Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.

Production and Distribution of Writing

4. Begins in grade 3.
5. With guidance and support from adults, focus on a topic, respond to questions and suggestions from peers, and add details to strengthen writing as needed.
6. With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

7. Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of “how-to” books on a given topic and use them to write a sequence of instructions).
8. With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
9. Begins in grade 4.

Range of Writing

10. Begins in grade 3.

Speaking and Listening Standards

The following standards offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 1 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
 - a. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).
 - b. Build on others' talk in conversations by responding to the comments of others through multiple exchanges.
 - c. Ask questions to clear up any confusion about the topics and texts under discussion.
2. Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

3. Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to gather additional information or clarify something that is not understood.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

4. Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly.
5. Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.
6. Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task, audience, and situation.

Language Standards

The following standards for grades offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
 - a. Legibly print all upper- and lowercase letters.
 - b. Use common, proper, and possessive nouns.
 - c. Use singular and plural nouns with matching verbs in basic sentences (e.g., He hops; We hop).
 - d. Use personal and possessive pronouns (e.g., I, me, my; they, them, their).
 - e. Use verbs to convey a sense of past, present, and future (e.g., Yesterday I walked home; Today I walk home; Tomorrow I will walk home).
 - f. Use frequently occurring adjectives.
 - g. Use frequently occurring conjunctions (e.g., and, but, or, so, because).
 - h. Use determiners (e.g., articles, demonstratives).
 - i. Use frequently occurring prepositions (e.g., during, beyond, toward).
 - j. Produce and expand complete simple and compound declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in response to prompts.
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
 - a. Capitalize dates and names of people.
 - b. Use end punctuation for sentences.
 - c. Use commas in dates and to separate single words in a series.
 - d. Use conventional spelling for words with common spelling patterns and for frequently occurring irregular words.
 - e. Spell untaught words phonetically, drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions.

Knowledge of Language

3. Begins in grade 2.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 1 reading and content, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.
 - a. Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
 - b. Use knowledge of frequently occurring affixes (prefixes and suffixes) to interpret the meaning of a word.
 - c. Identify frequently occurring root words (e.g., look) and their inflectional forms (e.g., looks, looked, looking).
5. With guidance and support from adults, demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in

word meanings.

- a. Sort words into categories (e.g., colors, clothing) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent.
 - b. Define words by category and by one or more key attributes (e.g., a duck is a bird that swims; a tiger is a large cat with stripes).
 - c. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at home that are cozy).
 - d. Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs differing in manner (e.g., look, peek, glance, stare, glare, scowl) and adjectives differing in intensity (e.g., large, gigantic) by defining or choosing them or by acting out the meanings.
6. Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts, including using frequently occurring conjunctions to signal simple relationships (e.g., because).