

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.

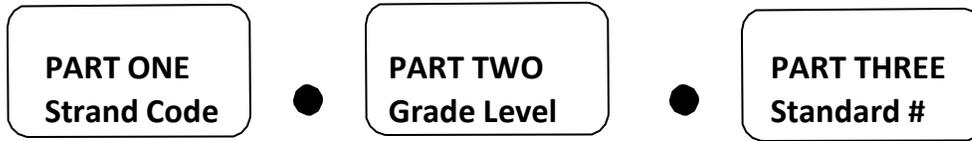
The Standards for ELA/Literacy establish grade-level expectations for all students meaning *what* students will learn. Decisions about *how* to teach these expectations are left up to local districts, schools, and teachers.

Reading the Standards and Interpreting their Codes

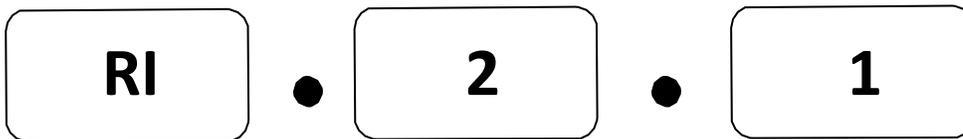
It is important for those using the standards to understand the terminology used. The purpose of this section is to explore the terminology used in the Standards for ELA/Literacy.

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 such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
2. Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
3. Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

Craft and Structure

4. Describe how words and phrases supply rhythm and meaning in a poem or song; determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in text.
5. Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.
6. Acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.
8. (Not applicable to literature)
9. Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story (e.g., Cinderella stories) by different authors or from different cultures.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories and poetry, in the grades 2–3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

Reading Standards for Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

1. Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
2. Identify the main topic of a multi-paragraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.
3. Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.

Craft and Structure

4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 2 topic or subject area.
5. Know and use various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.
6. Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.
8. Describe how reasons or evidence support specific points the author makes in a text.

9. Compare and contrast the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 2–3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

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. Mastered in grade 1.

Phonological Awareness

2. Mastered in grade 1.

Phonics and Word Recognition

3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
 - a. Distinguish long and short vowels when reading regularly spelled one-syllable words.
 - b. Know spelling-sound correspondences for additional common vowel teams.
 - c. Decode regularly spelled two-syllable words with long vowels.
 - d. Decode words with common prefixes and suffixes.
 - e. Identify words with inconsistent but common spelling-sound correspondences.
 - f. Recognize and read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.

Fluency

4. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
 - a. Read on-level text³ with purpose and understanding.
 - b. Read on-level text⁴ 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.

³ “On-level text” means grade level text.

⁴ “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 book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., because, and, also) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.
3. Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

Production and Distribution of Writing

4. Begins in grade 3.
5. With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.
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., read a number of books on a single topic to produce a report; record science observations).
8. 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 2 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
 - a. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, 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 linking their comments to the remarks of others.
 - c. Ask for clarification and further explanation as needed about the topics and texts under discussion.

2. Recount or describe key ideas or details from 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 clarify comprehension, gather additional information, or deepen understanding of a topic or issue.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

4. Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking audibly in coherent sentences.
5. Create audio recordings of stories or poems with the guidance and support from adults and/or peers; add drawings or other visual displays to stories or recounts of experiences when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.
6. Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task, audience, and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification.

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. Use collective nouns (e.g., group).
 - b. Form and use frequently occurring irregular plural nouns (e.g., feet, children, teeth, mice, fish).
 - c. Use reflexive pronouns (e.g., myself, ourselves) and indefinite pronouns (e.g., anyone, everything).
 - d. Form and use the past tense of frequently occurring irregular verbs (e.g., sat, hid, told).
 - e. Use adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what is to be modified.
 - f. Produce, expand, and rearrange complete simple and compound sentences (e.g., The boy watched the movie; The little boy watched the movie; The action movie was watched by the little boy).
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
 - a. Capitalize holidays, product names, and geographic names.
 - b. Use commas in greetings and closings of letters.
 - c. Use an apostrophe to form contractions and frequently occurring possessives.
 - d. Generalize learned spelling patterns when writing words (e.g., cage → badge; boy → boil).
 - e. Consult reference materials, including beginning dictionaries, as needed to check and correct spellings.

Knowledge of Language

3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
 - a. Compare formal and informal uses of English.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 2 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. Determine the meaning of the new word formed when a known prefix is added to a known word (e.g.,

- happy/unhappy, tell/retell)
- c. Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., addition, additional).
 - d. Use knowledge of the meaning of individual words to predict the meaning of compound words (e.g., birdhouse, lighthouse, housefly; bookshelf, notebook, bookmark).
 - e. Use glossaries and beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases.
5. Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.
- a. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., describe foods that are spicy or juicy).
 - b. Distinguish shades of meaning among closely related verbs (e.g., toss, throw, hurl) and closely related adjectives (e.g., thin, slender, skinny, scrawny).
6. Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts, including using adjectives and adverbs to describe (e.g., When other kids are happy that makes me happy).