



Morgan County Schools

Educate and empower everyone to learn and prosper in a student-centered environment.

Ralph W. Hamilton, Ed. D., Superintendent

📍 155 University Drive • West Liberty, KY 41472 | 📞 (606)743-8002 | 🖨️ (606)743-8050

Writing Program

Mission: Educate and empower everyone to learn and prosper in a student-centered environment.

Vision: United in preparing strong, independent, and resilient learners equipped to lead a successful future.

Purpose

Morgan County Schools is committed to developing students who can think critically, communicate effectively, and use writing as a tool for learning, problem-solving, and meaningful expression. Writing is a purposeful act of thinking and communication that allows students to explore ideas, analyze information, construct knowledge, and communicate meaning to others.

Writing instruction will be embedded across the curriculum and connected to authentic learning experiences. All students will have frequent opportunities to write for a variety of purposes, audiences, genres, and disciplines while developing the skills necessary for success in school, careers, postsecondary education, and life.

District Writing Vision

Every Morgan County student will develop the ability to use writing to think, learn, communicate, create, and contribute.

Our writing program will provide consistent, meaningful, and standards-aligned writing experiences across all grade levels and content areas. Writing will be viewed as a shared responsibility across the curriculum rather than an isolated English/Language Arts activity.

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Portrait of a Learner Connection

Morgan County Schools' writing program supports the development of the district's Portrait of a Learner:

Impactful Citizen

Students use writing to understand issues, express informed ideas, participate in their communities, and communicate in ways that positively impact others.

Effective Communicator

Students communicate clearly and purposefully through written, digital, and multimodal formats while considering audience, purpose, voice, and context. Provide opportunities for students to develop complex communication for a variety of purposes.

Confident Contributor

Students use writing to share ideas, demonstrate learning, participate in collaborative work, and contribute their perspectives with confidence.

Solution Seeker

Students use writing to ask questions, conduct research, analyze evidence, evaluate information, solve problems, and develop creative solutions.

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Empathetic Servant

Students use writing to understand diverse perspectives, demonstrate empathy, advocate for others, and communicate with respect and compassion.

Districtwide Writing Expectations

Morgan County Schools will provide students with opportunities to:

- Write daily and across all content areas as appropriate to the discipline and learning objective.
- Engage in the three modes of writing:
 - Writing to Learn
 - Writing to Demonstrate Learning
 - Writing for Publication
- Write for a variety of purposes, audiences, genres, and time frames.
- Engage in literary, opinion/argumentative, informational/explanatory, narrative, and practical/workplace writing as appropriate to grade level and content.
- Connect writing to texts, investigations, experiences, data, and other sources of information.
- Use evidence to support ideas, claims, explanations, and conclusions.
- Develop research skills, including questioning, inquiry, gathering and evaluating information, synthesizing sources, organizing ideas, citing sources, and communicating findings.
- Participate in the writing process, including planning, drafting, revising, editing, publishing, and reflection at ***all grade levels***.
- Receive consistent, timely, and meaningful feedback to improve their writing.
- Make appropriate use of technology, digital tools, multimodal texts, and other language resources.

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- Develop writing skills that support oral communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving.
- Have opportunities for student choice, creativity, independent thinking, and authentic audiences.

Alignment to the Kentucky Academic Standards using age-appropriate formats

All writing curriculum, instruction, and student tasks within the District must explicitly align with the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Reading and Writing, with particular emphasis on the Composition strand. Instruction will be deliberately scaffolded horizontally (across classes within a grade level) and vertically (across grade levels from K through 12).

1. The Three Primary Modes of Writing

Instruction must balance the three core modes established by the KAS, utilizing age-appropriate formats:

- **Opinion (K-5) / Argumentative (6-12):** Students will learn to analyze evidence, construct logical claims, articulate clear reasoning, and counter opposing viewpoints using discipline-specific source material.
- **Informative / Explanatory:** Students will examine complex concepts, synthesize text-based information, and convey ideas clearly across content areas using accurate structures and vocabulary.
- **Narrative:** Students will develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, well-chosen details, and structured event sequences to build depth of expression.

2. Three Types of Writing Formats

To ensure breadth of practice, students will engage regularly in:

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- **Writing to Learn:** Short, informal, and unpolished writing tasks (e.g., exit tickets, reflection journals, annotated text, graphic organizers) designed to process new content, clear up misconceptions, and spark critical thinking.
- **Writing to Demonstrate Learning:** Medium-length pieces (e.g., short-answer responses, lab reports, essay examinations) where students show content mastery and apply structure and analytical skills.
- **Writing for Publication:** Extended, multi-stage pieces where students navigate the complete writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) to produce polished work tailored to a specified real-world audience.

Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing will be intentionally integrated throughout the instructional day and across all disciplines. Reading and writing daily as reciprocal skills and processes in integrated rather than separate courses. Text-based and evidence-based writing that is directly connected to what students are reading and to the topics studied.

Teachers will provide discipline-specific writing experiences that reflect how writing is authentically used within each content area. For example:

- **English/Language Arts:** literary analysis, narrative, opinion/argument, informational writing and publication.
- **Mathematics:** explanations of mathematical reasoning, justification of solutions, problem-solving reflections and mathematical arguments.
- **Science:** explanations, lab reports, evidence-based claims, investigations and scientific arguments.
- **Social Studies:** evidence-based explanations, historical arguments, analysis of sources and civic writing.
- **Career and Technical Education:** workplace communication, technical writing, documentation and professional correspondence.
- **Related Arts and Electives:** discipline-specific communication, reflection, creation and demonstration of learning.

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Writing expectations will be aligned vertically and horizontally with the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) and supported through high-quality instructional resources.

Instructional Priorities

Morgan County Schools will support teachers in providing:

1. **Explicit writing instruction** appropriate to students' developmental and academic needs.
2. **Authentic writing opportunities** connected to meaningful content and real-world purposes.
3. **Text- and evidence-based writing** across disciplines.
4. **Differentiated instruction** that provides access and support for all learners.
5. **Exemplars and models** that demonstrate quality writing.
6. **Regular feedback and revision** throughout the writing process.
7. **Technology integration** that allows students to research, collaborate, create, communicate, and publish.
8. **Student voice and choice** through opportunities to write for authentic audiences and purposes.

Instructional Expectations by Grade Band:

Kindergarten-2nd Grade

Examples include but not limited to:

- Oral language development
- Drawing and dictation
- Handwriting
- Storytelling
- Early opinion and information writing

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Evidence include but not limited to:

- Progression of writing samples and artifacts throughout the year

Grades 3rd-6th

Examples include but are not limited to:

Focus:

- Paragraph development
- Text-based writing
- Opinion and Informational Writing
- Audience Awareness

Evidence includes but not limited to:

- Quarterly writing pieces
- Vibrant learning artifacts
- Student-led exhibitions of defenses of learning
- Extended Responses or other writing samples from across the curriculum
- Progression of writing sample artifacts throughout the year
- Community Impact Writing Project
- 6th Grade Defense of Learning

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Foundational Writing Skills

Morgan County Schools will provide explicit instruction in foundational handwriting skills consistent with the Kentucky Academic Standards, including:

- **Print handwriting:** Kindergarten–Grade 1
- **Cursive handwriting:** Grades 2–3

Foundational writing skills will be developed alongside composition, language, reading, and content-area learning.

Technology and Language Resources

Students will use a variety of appropriate resources and technological tools throughout the writing process. The writing process at all grade levels includes planning, drafting, revising, editing, publishing, and reflecting upon writing.

These may include print and digital texts, multimedia, graphics, interviews, observations, research databases, collaborative platforms, presentation tools, and other digital resources.

Technology will be used purposefully, with differentiated strategies that make instruction accessible to all students:

- Research and evaluate information.
- Communicate ideas effectively.
- Utilize critical thinking skills
- Collaborate with others.

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- Create and publish authentic products.
- Develop deeper understanding through inquiry.
- Make connections beyond the classroom.

Students will also be taught to use digital and information resources responsibly, ethically, and appropriately.

Assessment and Feedback

Writing will be used both as an instructional strategy and an assessment of learning.

Teachers will use student writing to monitor progress, provide feedback, identify instructional needs, and support student growth. Schools will use appropriate writing evidence and data to inform instruction and continuous improvement.

Feedback should be timely, specific, and focused on helping students understand how to strengthen their thinking, communication, organization, evidence, language, and overall writing.

Professional Learning and Support

Morgan County Schools will provide ongoing professional learning and resources to support effective writing instruction across the curriculum. Professional learning will focus on:

- Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing.
- Discipline-specific writing.
- Writing across the curriculum.
- Text- and evidence-based writing.
- The writing process.
- Authentic audiences and purposes.

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- Differentiation and accessibility.
- Effective feedback and revision.
- Technology and multimodal composition.
- Student engagement and ownership.

Administrators, teachers, and instructional staff will work collaboratively to establish consistent writing expectations while allowing flexibility for the unique demands of each discipline.

Implementation and Continuous Improvement

Morgan County Schools will establish a consistent districtwide framework for writing while allowing schools and teachers to implement writing practices appropriate to their students, grade levels, courses, and content areas.

Schools will periodically review writing instruction, student work, assessment evidence, and professional learning needs to determine areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.

The district will maintain alignment between the writing program, the Kentucky Academic Standards, instructional resources, assessment practices, and the Morgan County Schools Portrait of a Learner.

Our Commitment

Morgan County Schools believes every student can become a capable, confident, and purposeful writer. Through writing across the curriculum, students will learn to think deeply, communicate effectively, contribute confidently, seek solutions, and use their voices to positively impact others.

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Resources from the Kentucky Department of Education

[KY Academic Standards for Reading and Writing](#)

[KY Reading and Writing Standards Implementation Guide](#)

[Text-Based Writing Across Disciplines](#)

[Composition in the Classroom](#)

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