

English language arts and literature

Draft K-6 curriculum

English language arts and literature overview

English language arts and literature is essential to foundational literacy and communication skills. It prepares students for ongoing learning in secondary grades, post-secondary levels, and the workplace.

Students will develop skills such as speaking, listening, reading, and writing in order to communicate in different ways in a variety of situations. They will explore great literary works and viewpoints that have shaped society over time. By learning to think critically and share ideas effectively, students can face challenges and find creative solutions on their own or working with others.

Shifts in K-6 English language arts and literature

These are the main shifts in knowledge and skill requirements from the current K-6 English language arts and literature curriculum to the draft:

Literature

- Current – No focus on works of literature.
- Draft – Opportunities for students to study great works of literature from many world cultures.

Writing

- Current – Writing is not addressed in a clear, organized progression.
- Draft – Students develop writing skills in an organized, orderly way to effectively express ideas and information in a variety of forms.

- Current – Grammar, spelling, and punctuation conventions are not identified in detail.
- Draft – Clear expectations for students to learn grammar, spelling, and punctuation across all grades.

Reading

- Current – No explicit mention of reading fluency.
- Draft – Clear expectations for students to develop accurate, automatic, and expressive reading skills in all grades.
- Current – Reading comprehension strategies are not presented in a clear progression.
- Draft – Reading comprehension strategies follow a clear progression to enable students to understand information and ideas.

Oral communication

- Current – Oral language is generally addressed through listening and speaking.
- Draft – Clear expectations for students to develop oral language skills by listening, speaking, delivering speeches, presenting, and collaborating.

Phonological awareness

The ability to identify and manipulate sounds in oral language

- Current – Not mentioned and little focus on students learning to identify and manipulate sounds when speaking.
- Draft – Must learn from Kindergarten to Grade 2 and apply it to reading and writing in later grades.

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Phonics

- Current – Learning the relationships between sounds and letters (phonics) happens in a general way through reading.
- Draft – Clear expectations for students to learn phonics from Kindergarten to Grade 3, then apply them to reading and writing in later grades.

Vocabulary and morphology

The study of words and their parts, such as prefixes, suffixes, and base words

- Current – Generally addressed with other types of word analysis and comprehension.
- Draft – Clear expectations for students to build their knowledge of vocabulary and word parts (morphology) from grade to grade.

Text form

- Current – The term text is not clearly defined.
- Draft – The term text is clearly defined to be more inclusive, diverse, and support digital and non-digital learning. It includes information and ideas provided in books, reports, websites, videos, diagrams, pictures, oral stories, and more.
- Current – General references to the forms, structure, and formats used to communicate information and ideas.
- Draft – Clear, detailed learning progressions that focus on text forms and structures that support reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing information and ideas in a variety of digital and non-digital forms.

Draft K-6 English language arts and literature snapshot

In English language arts and literature, students will learn about reading fluency and comprehension, writing conventions and form, and oral language.

Kindergarten

- Develop listening and speaking skills by sharing ideas, stories, and poems.
- Recognize and write some letters and words.
- Share understandings of ideas and information about people, places, or things that are real or imaginary.
- Express ideas and information creatively.

- Contribute to discussions by asking questions and speaking in sentences that contain complete ideas.
- Copy words to become familiar with how words are spelled.

Grade 1

- Speak about experiences and information using appropriate vocabulary, volume, and speed.
- Retell the main idea, characters, and details in a story or poem.
- Show understandings of sound-letter relationships and automatic recognition of words.
- Combine ideas in logical sequences to speak and write in complete sentences.
- Begin sentences with a capital letter, and end them with a period, question mark, or exclamation mark.
- Organize ideas to create stories and poems or record factual information.

Grade 2

- Adjust listening and speaking to communicate clearly and develop positive relationships.
- Make connections between letters and the sounds they represent to read fluently and spell words correctly.
- Use a variety of reading strategies including altering speed, re-reading, and making predictions to understand the message in a story or an informational text.
- Ask and answer questions to clarify information.
- Create imaginative representations or dramatizations of stories that include characters, setting, and plot.
- Clarify written ideas and information through use of appropriate vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation.

Grade 3

- Explore how oral traditions show respect for traditional shared knowledge.
- Use eye contact, posture, gestures, and movement to enhance communication.
- Read complex words, phrases, and passages fluently and with expression.
- Relate personal experiences to interactions with people or information in books, poems, or plays.
- Demonstrate writing strategies.

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- Demonstrate grammar, spelling, and punctuation that clarify written communication.
- Identify how a variety of texts can communicate ideas and information.

Grade 4

- Demonstrate listening and speaking that build relationships and understanding.
- Demonstrate appropriate emphasis on words, pausing, phrasing, and intonation that reflects comprehension of text.
- Examine and apply strategies that support text comprehension.
- Create a variety of written texts to share information and develop personal expression.
- Examine and apply grammar, spelling, and punctuation to develop concise written communication.
- Identify the purpose, form, and structure of a variety of texts and how they can communicate ideas and information.

Grade 5

- Engage in collaborative dialogue to share ideas, solve problems, and make decisions.
- Apply knowledge to reading and writing.
- Evaluate ideas and information to comprehend texts.
- Analyze and reflect on ways to write effectively for different audiences and purposes.
- Experiment with and apply grammar, spelling, and punctuation to develop precise written communication.
- Examine how text genres, forms, and structures support and enhance communication.

Grade 6

- Offer relevant information and logical reasoning to enhance collaborative dialogue.
- Analyze texts and interpret contexts to build comprehension.
- Refine and adjust writing to reflect individuality and skills.
- Demonstrate and apply grammar, spelling, and punctuation accurately and skillfully in written communication.
- Analyze how a variety of texts are organized and can influence understandings of ourselves, each other, and the world.

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