

# Tennessee's State English Language Arts Standards

## Grade 4

Adopted by the Tennessee State Board of Education, July 2010



## College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

The K–5 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

### Key Ideas and Details

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.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

### Craft and Structure

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

### Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.\*
8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

### Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

\*Please see “Research to Build and Present Knowledge” in Writing and “Comprehension and Collaboration” in Speaking and Listening for additional standards relevant to gathering, assessing, and applying information from print and digital sources.

#### **Note on range and content of student reading**

To build a foundation for college and career readiness, students must read widely and deeply from among a broad range of high-quality, increasingly challenging literary and informational texts. Through extensive reading of stories, dramas, poems, and myths from diverse cultures and different time periods, students gain literary and cultural knowledge as well as familiarity with various text structures and elements. By reading texts in history/social studies, science, and other disciplines, students build a foundation of knowledge in these fields that will also give them the background to be better readers in all content areas. Students can only gain this foundation when the curriculum is intentionally and coherently structured to develop rich content knowledge within and across grades. Students also acquire the habits of reading independently and closely, which are essential to their future success.

## Grade 4 Reading Standards for Literature

Strand	Standard
<b>Literature</b>	<p><b>Key Ideas and Details</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.</li> <li>2. Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.</li> <li>3. Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character’s thoughts, words, or actions).</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Craft and Structure</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).</li> <li>5. Explain major differences between poems, drama, and prose, and refer to the structural elements of poems (e.g., verse, rhythm, meter) and drama (e.g., casts of characters, settings, descriptions, dialogue, stage directions) when writing or speaking about a text.</li> <li>6. Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first- and third-person narrations.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Integration of Knowledge and Ideas</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text.</li> <li>8. (Not applicable to literature)</li> <li>9. Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, in the grades 4-5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.</li> </ol>

## Grade 4 Reading Standards for Informational Text

Strand	Standard
<b>Informational Text</b>	<p><b>Key Ideas and Details</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.</li> <li>2. Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.</li> <li>3. Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Craft and Structure</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a <i>grade 4 topic or subject area</i>.</li> <li>5. Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.</li> <li>6. Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Integration of Knowledge and Ideas</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.</li> <li>8. Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.</li> <li>9. Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 4-5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.</li> </ol>

## **Reading Standards: Foundational Skills (K-5)**

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.

***Note: In kindergarten, children are expected to demonstrate increasing awareness and competence in the areas that follow.***

## Grade 4 Reading Standards for Foundational Skills

Strand	Standard
<b>Foundational Skills</b>	<p><b>Phonics and Word Recognition</b></p> <p>3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Use combined knowledge of all letter-sound correspondences, syllabication patterns, and morphology (e.g., roots and affixes) to read accurately unfamiliar multisyllabic words in context and out of contrast.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Fluency</b></p> <p>4. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.</li> <li>b. Read grade-level prose and poetry orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings.</li> <li>c. Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.</li> </ul>

## College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

The K–5 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

### Text Types and Purposes\*

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

### Production and Distribution of Writing

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

### Research to Build and Present Knowledge

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

### Range of Writing

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

\*These broad types of writing include many subgenres. See Appendix A for definitions or key writing types ([http://www.corestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/ELA\\_Standards.pdf](http://www.corestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/ELA_Standards.pdf)).

### **Note on range and content of student writing**

To build a foundation for college and career readiness, students need to learn to use writing as a way of offering and supporting opinions, demonstrating understanding of the subjects they are studying, and conveying real and imagined experiences and events. They learn to appreciate that a key purpose of writing is to communicate clearly to an external, sometimes unfamiliar audience, and they begin to adapt the form and content of their writing to accomplish a particular task and purpose. They develop the capacity to build knowledge on a subject through research projects and to respond analytically to literary and informational sources. To meet these goals, students must devote significant time and effort to writing, producing numerous pieces over short and extended time frames throughout the year.

## Grade 4 Writing Standards

Standard	
<b>Text Types and Purposes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer’s purpose.</li><li>b. Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.</li><li>c. Link opinion and reasons using words and phrases (e.g., <i>for instance, in order to, in addition</i>).</li><li>d. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.</li></ol></li><li>2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.</li><li>b. Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.</li><li>c. Link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (e.g., <i>another, for example, also, because</i>).</li><li>d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.</li><li>e. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.</li></ol></li><li>3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.</li><li>b. Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.</li><li>c. Use a variety of transitional words and phrases to manage the sequence of events.</li><li>d. Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.</li><li>e. Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.</li></ol></li></ol>
<b>Production and Distribution of Writing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)</li><li>5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising</li></ol>

	<p>and editing. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grade 4 on page 29.)</p> <p>6. With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of one page in a single sitting.</p>
<b>Research to Build and Present Knowledge</b>	<p>7. Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.</p> <p>8. Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources.</p> <p>9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Apply <i>grade 4 Reading standards</i> to literature (e.g., “Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text [e.g., a character’s thoughts, words, or actions].”).</li> <li>b. Apply <i>grade 4 Reading standards</i> to informational texts (e.g., “Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text”).</li> </ol>
<b>Range of Writing</b>	<p>10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.</p>

## **College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening**

The K–5 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

### Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

### Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.
6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

### **Note on range and content of student speaking and listening**

To build a foundation for college and career readiness, students must have ample opportunities to take part in a variety of rich, structured conversations—as part of a whole class, in small groups, and with a partner. Being productive members of these conversations requires that students contribute accurate, relevant information; respond to and develop what others have said; make comparisons and contrasts; and analyze and synthesize a multitude of ideas in various domains.

New technologies have broadened and expanded the role that speaking and listening play in acquiring and sharing knowledge and have tightened their link to other forms of communication. Digital texts confront students with the potential for continually updated content and dynamically changing combinations of words, graphics, images, hyperlinks, and embedded video and audio.

## Grade 4 Speaking and Listening Standards

Standard	
<b>Comprehension and Collaboration</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on <i>grade 4 topics and texts</i>, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.</li><li>b. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.</li><li>c. Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.</li><li>d. Review the key ideas expressed and explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.</li></ol></li><li>2. Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.</li><li>3. Identify the reasons and evidence a speaker provides to support particular points.</li></ol>
<b>Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.</li><li>5. Add audio recordings and visual displays to presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.</li><li>6. Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion); use formal English when appropriate to task and situation. (See grade 4 Language standards 1 on page 28 for specific expectations.)</li></ol>

## College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Language

The K–5 standards on the following pages define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. They correspond to the College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards below by number. The CCR and grade-specific standards are necessary complements—the former providing broad standards, the latter providing additional specificity—that together define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate.

### Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

### Knowledge of Language

3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

### Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.
5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
6. Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

### **Note on range and content of student language use**

To build a foundation for college and career readiness in language, students must gain control over many conventions of standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics as well as learn other ways to use language to convey meaning effectively. They must also be able to determine or clarify the meaning of grade-appropriate words encountered through listening, reading, and media use; come to appreciate that words have

nonliteral meanings, shadings of meaning, and relationships to other words; and expand their vocabulary in the course of studying content. The inclusion of Language standards in their own strand should not be taken as an indication that skills related to conventions, effective language use, and vocabulary are unimportant to reading, writing, speaking, and listening; indeed, they are inseparable from such contexts.

## Grade 4 Language Standards

Standard	
<b>Conventions of Standard English</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Use relative pronouns (<i>who, whose, whom, which, that</i>) and relative adverbs (<i>where, when, why</i>).</li> <li>b. Form and use the progressive (e.g., <i>I was walking; I am walking; I will be walking</i>) verb tenses.</li> <li>c. Use modal auxiliaries (e.g., <i>can, may, must</i>) to convey various conditions.</li> <li>d. Order adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns (e.g., <i>a small red bag</i> rather than <i>a red small bag</i>).</li> <li>e. Form and use prepositional phrases.</li> <li>f. Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons.*</li> <li>g. Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., <i>to, too, two; there, their</i>).*</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Use correct capitalization.</li> <li>b. Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.</li> <li>c. Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence.</li> <li>d. Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Knowledge of Language</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.*</li> <li>b. Choose punctuation for effect.*</li> <li>c. Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Vocabulary Acquisition and Use</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based <i>on grade 4 reading and content</i>, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.</li> <li>b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., <i>telegraph, photograph, autograph</i>).</li> <li>c. Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

- pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.
5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
    - a. Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., *as pretty as a picture*) in context.
    - b. Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.
    - c. Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their opposites (antonyms) and to words with similar but not identical meanings (synonyms).
  6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., *quizzed, whined, stammered*) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., *wildlife, conservation, and endangered* when discussing animal preservation).
- \*This skill is likely to require continued attention in higher grades as it is applied to increasingly sophisticated writing and speaking.