

Idaho Content Standards English Language Arts/Literacy

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IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CONTENT AND CURRICULUM | ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERACY

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Introduction

Idaho's education system should ensure that students are fully prepared for college and a career in the 21st century upon graduation. Idaho's education system should also ensure that students are prepared to be civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive contributions to their communities. Nothing could be more vital for our state's future.

To reach this goal, Idaho has revised its former English language arts standards. Throughout this year-long process of reviewing, rethinking, and ultimately rewriting our standards, the Idaho Department of Education engaged numerous stakeholders in a multi-layered process. In recent years Idaho teachers, schools, and districts have worked together to improve English language arts education throughout the state. Revisions in this document respond to the practical wisdom gleaned from their efforts and the interests of parents who have a legitimate say in what their children learn.

High-quality academic standards are the foundation of a well-functioning educational system—driving both the instructional materials used in our schools and the assessments we ask students to take. With these new and improved standards, Idaho builds on its past strengths and also learns from a body of experience with college and career ready standards within Idaho and around the country. We have sought to make our standards the best in the nation and lay the foundation for higher quality textbooks, more streamlined tests, and—ultimately—generations of high school graduates fully capable of discharging the responsibilities associated with United States citizenship.

Idaho's Standards for English Language Arts are built on the following premises:

- Standards should be understandable to all stakeholders, free of jargon and "how to," with wording focused on the learning goal.
- Standards should reflect the fact that English Language Arts is not merely a collection of discrete skills and strategies but a powerful discipline with consequential content to teach and learn.
- Standards in the distinct strands should not serve as isolated areas of instruction; they are designed to be joined purposely for deep and relevant learning.

Idaho's Standards for English Language Arts prioritize the following content:

Foundational Reading Skills

Idaho's standards emphasize explicit, systematic approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency as the foundation of literacy in the early grades. Decoding and fluency are essential to creating proficient readers. Findings in multiple studies reinforce the centrality of solid foundational reading skills to students' reading comprehension and broader literacy abilities. The seminal National Reading Panel's review two decades ago is chief among the works testifying to the strength of the evidence for specific early reading practices. When decoding words becomes rapid, automatic, and effortless, a reader's working memory is freed to focus on the meaning of the reading and growing knowledge. The most frequent performance breakdowns for students struggling with reading generally stem from inadequate practice with foundational reading skills or scarce opportunities to gain fluency with grade-level texts – both relatively straightforward to reinforce. Idaho's standards do this by requiring fluency practice through grade 12.

Building Knowledge

Idaho's standards place a premium on students gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing information and data to build their knowledge of the world. Research is emphatic that reading ability and knowledge about the world

(and the words used to describe it) are tightly connected. More than a quarter century of research supports the importance of general knowledge to reading comprehension. Knowledge of the topic has been shown to have a more significant impact on reading comprehension than students' generalized reading ability (Recht & Leslie, 1988). We cannot think deeply, productively, or critically about a matter if we have little foundational knowledge of it. Thus, the key to developing critical thinking skills in our students is to increase their knowledge about a breadth of subjects by reading rich and related texts on various topics. In addition to a research standard, and in response to the substantial research base on the importance of knowledge to students' ability to read well and at high levels, there are two standards—one resides in the Reading Comprehension strand and the other in the Research strand—dedicated to students reading a volume of texts on conceptually related topics. Reading comprehension develops as students engage with resonant and rewarding literary and nonfiction text selections where knowledge acquisition is the primary rationale for reading, starting at the earliest grades to allow knowledge to build upon knowledge.

Comprehending Grade-Level Complex Texts

Idaho's standards are specific about the complexity of texts students ought to be reading. Why do college- and career-ready standards include definitions of text complexity? Students encountering appropriately complex texts at each grade level develop the mature language skills and the conceptual knowledge they need for success in school and life. Research shows that rather than the skills or strategies captured in the verbs used in standards, the complexity of the text is the element that most differentiates performance on reading tests (ACT, 2006). Therefore, the standards include a definition of quantitative bands of complexity so that teachers and students have clarity about what level of texts students should regularly read in class—that is, which literary and nonfiction texts qualify as “grade-level.”

Valuing Text Evidence

Idaho's standards accurately reflect the demand that students draw evidence from texts to support their claims and conclusions—both orally and in writing—about the texts they are reading and what is happening in them. Research shows that reading “thoughtfully and critically and produc[ing] evidence” is one of the most effective ways to lead students to “make connections to related topics” and “synthesize information” (ICAS, 2002, p. 16). Thus, for students to grow their knowledge from what they read and research, text evidence has a central and recurring presence in the standards. Whatever they are reading, students must be able to show a steadily growing ability to discern more from and make fuller use of text. Students must be able to make an increasing number of connections among ideas and between texts; consider a wider range of textual evidence; and become more sensitive to inconsistencies, ambiguities, and flawed reasoning in texts.

Organization and Substance of Key Aspects of the Standards

Idaho's standards are organized into seven strands and written so that reading, writing, and oral communications standards progress together. Students are expected to use the texts they read in their writing and discussions. The strands are:

- Foundational Reading Skills
- Reading Comprehension
- Vocabulary Development
- Research
- Writing
- Oral and Digital Communications

- Grammar and Conventions

Standards under the *Foundational Reading Skills Strand* describe how students become competent readers who can comprehend texts across a wide range of disciplines they will encounter in school and throughout their lives. Each aspect of foundational skills names a slice of the skills and knowledge students need to acquire and are organized under the sub-strands of Print Concepts, Phonemic Awareness, and Phonics and Decoding. Together they constitute what the brain needs to learn and do in order to read proficiently. The standards aim to ensure every Idaho student has an understanding and working knowledge of how spoken English is translated into print. Mastery of these components will culminate in students becoming fluent readers. The standards constitute a research and evidence-based scope and sequence for phonological awareness and phonics development, and a grounding in print and alphabet awareness, that should guide the development or adoption of an effective reading curriculum.

Standards under the *Reading Comprehension Strand* emphasize the sophistication of what students read and the skill with which they extract and wield evidence from texts. There are four overarching sub-strands—Text Complexity, Volume of Reading to Build Knowledge, Textual Evidence, and Reading Fluency—that work together with the grade-specific standards for Literature and Nonfiction Text (the other two sub-strands) to promote reading comprehension. The standards for Text Complexity outline a grade-by-grade sequence on increasing text complexity, from grade two to the college and career readiness level. The sub-strand of Volume of Reading to Build Knowledge focuses on growing students' trove of knowledge of the world from reading (or being read to from) volumes of texts at a range of complexity levels. The sub-strand for Textual Evidence conveys the belief that students should show a growing ability to discern more from and make fuller use of the ideas and concepts within texts. Whether done aloud or silently, fluent reading is another crucial component of students' reading comprehension and thus constitutes another sub-strand. Because texts increase in complexity across grades and genre, being fluent in one grade does not guarantee fluency in succeeding grades. Thus, as noted above, fluency practice is required through grade 12.

The standards in the *Vocabulary Development Strand* reflect the fact that researchers have closely tied vocabulary to reading comprehension for nearly a century. As Marilyn Adams says, "Words are not just words. They are the nexus—the interface—between communication and thought. When we read, it is through words that we build, refine, and modify our knowledge. What makes vocabulary valuable and important is not the words themselves so much as the understandings they afford" (2009, p. 180). Strong vocabularies allow students to engage and participate in career, civic, and life pursuits more fully. To use language with precision requires, at the most fundamental level, a command of words. The sub-strand of Word Building asks students not merely to master the use of words in context but to familiarize themselves with how word meaning is constructed from roots and affixes. From using resources to research the multiple meanings of words to exploring nuances and shades of meaning, the standards guide students in developing their understanding and skill at deploying the right word to fit the right instance. The other sub-strand, Academic Vocabulary, expects students to grow and expand their vocabulary to incorporate both general academic and content-specific words so they can read with increasing confidence and write and speak with greater force and clarity.

Under the *Research Strand*, students conduct simple research to build their knowledge of the world and communicate their discoveries. The sub-strand of Inquiry Process to Build, Present, and Use Knowledge asks students to generate questions on topics of importance or interest. They gather, evaluate, and synthesize information and data from various sources and communicate that research to suit different audiences and purposes. Within a grade level, the sub-strand of Deep Reading on Topics to Build Knowledge argues that there should be an adequate number of titles on a given topic to allow students to study topics deeply for a sustained period. The knowledge children learn in earlier grade levels should then be expanded and developed in subsequent grade levels. That way, students grow their academic vocabulary and cultivate knowledge over time and with growing maturity levels about the natural and social world. Children in the early grades (particularly K–

2) will benefit from participating in rich, structured conversations in response to texts teachers read aloud. Together they can orally compare, contrast, and synthesize information in the manner called for by the standards. Children in the upper elementary grades and beyond will generally be expected to read texts independently and reflect on them in writing.

The standards under the *Writing Strand* and sub-strand of Range of Writing are designed to ensure students develop the flexibility to write for multiple purposes and audiences. All students can learn how to marshal textual evidence in the service of a skilled interpretation of what a text says directly or inferentially, and learning to do so is essential to students' futures. Researchers note that the task most associated with college-level work across the disciplines is "reading-to-write" (Flower et al., 1990, p. 4). College instructors are unanimous in citing the ability to identify, evaluate, and use evidence to support or challenge a thesis as one of the essential skills expected of incoming college students (Graham & Hebert, 2010; ICAS, 2002). The types of writing described in the standards are versatile and worth learning; mature writing often blends elements of more than one type. For example, an argument may include a reflection, an exposition might consist of a critique, or a short story may explain an idea. In addition, each type of writing is itself a broad category encompassing a balance of genres. For example, narrative writing could include narrative poems, short stories, and memoirs. Since research shows that writing about text(s) is one of the most powerful ways students can improve their reading comprehension and knowledge, writing to sources is a priority. Across all types of writing, students need to be able to reshape and polish pieces of writing and be facile with printing, cursive, and keyboarding, which constitutes the other sub-strand (Handwriting and Keyboarding).

The standards under the *Oral and Digital Communications Strand* include two sub-strands: Oral Communications and Digital Communications. The standards under those two sub-strands reflect the importance of verbal and visual communications in today's society. They illustrate the priority given to working collaboratively in diverse groups and organizational settings and the need to be able to decipher oral and digital communications for their explicit and implicit messages. New technologies have broadened and expanded the role that speaking and listening play in acquiring and sharing knowledge and have elevated the role of digital communications. To fully participate in civic life in our technological society, students need the ability to gather, comprehend, and evaluate information and ideas delivered through oral and digital media. The Oral and Digital Communications standards lay out a progression of competencies in which students develop the ability to listen carefully and express ideas; integrate information from oral, visual, quantitative, and digital sources; and critically evaluate what they hear and see to become more informed, reflective, and engaged participants in society.

The standards under the *Grammar and Conventions Strand* not only identify a steady progression toward student mastery of the rules and conventions of English grammar, but they also communicate that language is a matter of craft and informed choice among alternatives. To convey meaning effectively and build a foundation for writing with precision and clarity, students must learn about the mechanics of the English language and standard expectations for usage. Understanding conventions and grammar is not unimportant for reading; learning how to navigate poetry or prose on the page requires a grasp of how words are strung together and assembled into meaningful sentences. The competent and skillful use of conventions even impacts speaking and listening. They are the mark of an adept user of language. Students should also have a well-developed sense of when discourse calls for standard conventions and when other, more informal modes of communication may be more appropriate.

2c. Capitalize the first word in a sentence, the first letter of student's name, and the pronoun "I".

3. Use knowledge of spelling in writing.

3a. Use conventional spelling for words with common, taught spelling patterns and frequently occurring irregular words.

3b. Spell untaught words phonetically, drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions.

- 2a.** Commas in greetings and closing of letters.
- 2b.** Apostrophes to form contractions and frequently occurring possessives.
- 2c.** Capitalize holidays, names, and places.
- 3.** Use knowledge of spelling in writing.
 - 3a.** Generalize learned spelling patterns when writing words (e.g., *cage* → *badge*; *boy* → *boil*).
 - 3b.** Consult reference materials, including beginning dictionaries, as needed to check and correct spellings.

Research Strand	3.RS-
Inquiry Process to Build, Present, and Use Knowledge (IP)	
<p>1. Conduct short research tasks to take some action or share findings orally or in writing by gathering and recording information on a specific topic from reference texts or through interviews, and using text features and search tools (e.g., <i>key words</i>, <i>sidebars</i>, <i>hyperlinks</i>) to locate information efficiently.</p>	
Deep Reading on Topics to Build Knowledge (DR)	
<p>2. Read a series of texts organized around a variety of conceptually related topics to build knowledge about the world. (These texts should be at a range of complexity levels so students can read the texts independently, with peers, or with modest support.)</p>	

Writing Strand	3.W-
Range of Writing (RW)	
<p>1. Develop flexibility in writing by routinely engaging in the production of shorter and longer pieces for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. This could include, among others, summaries, reflections, descriptions, letters, and poetry, etc.</p> <p>2. Write arguments that introduce the topic, express an opinion supported with facts, details, and reasons, and provide a concluding statement.</p> <p>3. Write informational texts that introduce the topic, develop the focus with facts and details, and provide a concluding statement.</p> <p>4. Write personal or fictional stories that recount an event or experience, include details to develop the characters or event(s), and provide a sense of closure.</p> <p>5. Group related information within a paragraph, using common linking words and phrases to connect ideas and information.</p> <p>6. With support from adults and peers, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing. (Editing should demonstrate command of grade-level Grammar and Conventions.)</p>	
Handwriting and Keyboarding (HWK)	
<p>7. Write legibly in cursive, leaving space between letters in a word, in a sentence, and at the edges of the paper.</p> <p>8. Use keyboarding skills to produce and publish writing.</p>	

Oral and Digital Communications Strand	3.ODC-
Oral Communications (OC)	

1. Engage in collaborative discussions about *grade-level topics and texts* with peers by staying on topic; linking comments to the remarks of others; asking questions to check understanding of information being discussed; and reviewing ideas expressed.
2. Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in a variety of media (audio, visual, and quantitative).
3. Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail.
4. Report orally on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

Digital Communications (DC)

5. With support, evaluate whether a digital source is factual or not by considering its use of evidence.
6. Use information gained digitally to determine where, when, why, and how key events occur.

**Note: Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific Grammar and Conventions standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

Grammar and Conventions Strand

3.GC-

Grammar and Usage (GU)

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
 - 1a. Form and use the progressive and perfect verb tenses.
 - 1b. Form and use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs.
 - 1c. Use collective nouns (e.g., *family, crew, assembly*) matched to plural verb forms.
 - 1d. Form and use regular and irregular plural nouns (e.g., *fish, teeth*).
 - 1e. Use common, proper, and possessive nouns.
 - 1f. Use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.
 - 1g. Produce, expand, and rearrange simple and compound sentences.
 - 1h. Speak in complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation to provide requested detail or clarification.

Mechanics (M)

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English punctuation and capitalization when writing and reading aloud to create meaning.
 - 2a. Commas in addresses and dates.
 - 2b. Commas and quotation marks in dialogue.
 - 2c. Forming and using possessives.
 - 2d. Capitalize appropriate words in titles.
3. Use knowledge of spelling in writing.

3a. Use conventional spelling for high-frequency and other studied words and for adding suffixes to base words.

3b. Use spelling patterns and generalizations (e.g., word families, position-based spellings, syllable patterns, ending rules, meaningful word parts) when pronouncing and writing words.

3c. Spell high-frequency irregular words correctly (e.g., *who*, *what*, *why*).

3d. Consult reference materials to check and correct spelling.

Grade 4

*Note: Print Concepts (standard 1) is found only in kindergarten; Phonemic Awareness (standard 2) is found only in kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2. Reading Fluency standards run K–12 and are contained within standard 4, Reading Comprehension.

Foundational Reading Skills Strand	4.FR-
Phonics and Decoding (PH)	
3. Use combined knowledge of all letter-sound correspondences, syllabication patterns, and morphology (roots and affixes) to read accurately unfamiliar grade-appropriate multisyllabic words (e.g., <i>depart</i> , <i>beneficial</i> , <i>recycle</i>) in context and out of context.	
Reading Comprehension Strand	4.RC-
Text Complexity (TC)	
1. Independently and proficiently read and comprehend texts representing a balance of genres, cultures, and perspectives that exhibit complexity at the lower end of the grades 4–5 band. (See the Quantitative Analysis Chart for Determining Text Complexity in the Resource Reference.)	
Volume of Reading to Build Knowledge (V)	
2. Regularly engage in a volume of reading, independently, with peers, or with modest support related to the topics and themes being studied to build knowledge and vocabulary.	
Textual Evidence (TE)	
3. Refer to details and examples in grade-level texts when explaining what texts say explicitly and when drawing inferences from texts.	
Reading Fluency (RF)	
4. Read grade-level text with accuracy, automaticity, appropriate rate, and expression in successive readings to support comprehension (see the 2017 Hasbrouck and Tindal norms listed in Resource Reference).	
Literature (L)	
5. Use evidence from literature to demonstrate understanding of grade-level texts. 5a. Determine the central themes in stories (including myths and legends), poems, and plays and explain how they are supported by key details. 5b. Describe a character, setting, or event in depth in stories and plays, drawing on specific details in the texts (e.g., a character’s thoughts, words, or actions). 5c. Explain the overall structures of stories, plays, and poems and how each successive part builds on earlier sections. 5d. Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first- and third-person narrations.	

5e. Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and patterns of events in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.

Nonfiction Text (NF)

6. Use evidence from nonfiction works to demonstrate understanding of grade-level texts.

6a. Determine the central ideas of texts and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize texts.

6b. Explain events, procedures, steps, ideas, or concepts found in historical, scientific, or technical texts, including what happened and why.

6c. Explain the overall structure of informational texts (e.g., description, sequence, comparison, problem-solution, cause-effect) and how each successive part builds on earlier sections.

6d. Explain how authors use evidence and reasons to support specific points in texts.

6e. Combine information from two texts on the same topic, noting important similarities and differences in focus and the information provided.

Vocabulary Development Strand

4.VD-

Word Building (WB)

1. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade-level content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies:

1a. Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as clues to the meaning of words or phrases.

1b. Use common Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of words (e.g., *thermometer*, *thermos*, *thermostat*).

1c. Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), print or digital, to find the pronunciation and clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

2. Determine how words and phrases provide meaning and nuance to grade-level texts:

2a. Recognize and explain the meaning of idioms, adages, and proverbs in context.

2b. Distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe subtle differences (e.g., *shook*, *trembled*, *wavered*, *quivered*).

Academic Vocabulary (AV)

3. Acquire and use accurately general academic and content-specific words and phrases *occurring in grade-level reading and content*, including those that signal precise actions or states of being (e.g., *frustrated*, *puzzled*, *stammered*) and vocabulary essential to a particular topic (e.g., *heroes*, *villains*, *quest*, *fate* when discussing myths). Use these words in discussions and writing.

Research Strand	4.RS-
Inquiry Process to Build, Present, and Use Knowledge (IP)	
1. Conduct short research tasks to take some action or share findings orally or in writing by identifying what information is needed to answer a research question, using text features and search tools to gather relevant information efficiently; and taking notes, categorizing that information, and providing a list of sources.	
Deep Reading on Topics to Build Knowledge (DR)	
2. Read a series of texts organized around a variety of conceptually related topics to build knowledge about the world. (These texts should be at a range of complexity levels so students can read the texts independently, with peers, or with modest support.)	

Writing Strand	4.W-
Range of Writing (RW)	
1. Develop flexibility in writing by routinely engaging in the production of shorter and longer pieces for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. This could include, among others, summaries, reflections, descriptions, letters, and poetry, etc.	
2. Write arguments that introduce the topic; express a clear opinion supported with facts, details and reasons; and provide a concluding statement or section.	
3. Write informational texts that introduce the topic; develop the focus with facts, details or other information; and provide a concluding statement or section.	
4. Write personal or fictional narratives that organize the writing around a central problem, conflict, or experience; use descriptions or dialogue to develop the characters or event(s); and provide a sense of closure.	
5. Organize related information together in paragraphs using precise language and linking words and phrases to connect details and ideas.	
6. With support from adults and peers, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing. (Editing should demonstrate command of grade-level Grammar and Conventions.)	
Handwriting and Keyboarding (HWK)	
7. Write legibly and fluently in cursive by hand, forming letters and words that can be easily read by others.	
8. Use technology to produce and publish writing, demonstrating sufficient command of keyboarding skills.	

Oral and Digital Communications Strand	4.ODC-
Oral Communications (OC)	
1. Engage in collaborative discussions about <i>grade-level topics and texts</i> with peers by carrying out assigned roles; making comments that build on and link to others' remarks; clarifying or following up on information; and reviewing key ideas expressed and explaining one's understanding.	

2. Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud, or information presented in diverse media (audio, visual, and quantitative).
3. Identify the reasons and evidence a speaker provides to support particular points being made.
4. Report orally 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, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

Digital Communications (DC)

5. Evaluate whether a digital source is factual or opinion-based by considering its use of evidence and whose point-of-view is represented or missing.
6. Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, timelines, or interactive elements) on Web pages.

**Note: Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific Grammar and Conventions standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

Grammar and Conventions Strand

4.GC-

Grammar and Usage (GU)

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
 - 1a. Recognize subject-predicate relationship in sentences.
 - 1b. Use principal modals to convey various conditions (e.g., *can, may, must*).
 - 1c. Order adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns.
 - 1d. Use relative pronouns and relative adverbs.
 - 1e. Form and use prepositional phrases.
 - 1f. Correctly use frequently confused common words (e.g., *to/too/two*).
 - 1g. Ensure subject-verb agreement.
 - 1h. Produce complete sentences; recognize and correct inappropriate fragments and run-ons.
 - 1i. 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.

Mechanics (M)

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English punctuation and capitalization when writing and reading aloud to create meaning.
 - 2a. Commas in a series.
 - 2b. Quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.
 - 2c. Use correct capitalization.
3. Spell grade level words correctly, including commonly confused words (e.g., *there/their/they're*).

Grade 5

*Note: Print Concepts (standard 1) is found only in kindergarten; Phonemic Awareness (standard 2) is found only in kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2. Reading Fluency standards run K–12 and are contained within standard 4, Reading Comprehension.

Foundational Reading Skills Strand	5.FR-
Phonics and Decoding (PH)	
3. Use combined knowledge of all letter-sound correspondences, syllabication patterns, and morphology (roots and affixes) to read accurately unfamiliar grade-level multisyllabic words (e.g., <i>disallow</i> , <i>misinform</i> , <i>transaction</i>) in context and out of context.	
Reading Comprehension Strand	5.RC-
Text Complexity (TC)	
1. Independently and proficiently read and comprehend texts representing a balance of genres, cultures, and perspectives that exhibit complexity at the higher end of the grades 4–5 band. (See the Quantitative Analysis Chart for Determining Text Complexity in the Resource Reference.)	
Volume of Reading to Build Knowledge (V)	
2. Regularly engage in a volume of reading, independently, with peers, or with modest support related to the topics and themes being studied to build knowledge and vocabulary.	
Textual Evidence (TE)	
3. Draw evidence from grade-level texts to explain what is said explicitly and when drawing inferences, including quoting from texts accurately.	
Reading Fluency (RF)	
4. Read grade-level text with accuracy, automaticity, appropriate rate, and expression in successive readings to support comprehension (see the 2017 Hasbrouck and Tindal norms listed in Resource Reference).	
Literature (L)	
5. Use evidence from literature to demonstrate understanding of grade-level texts. 5a. Summarize a text and determine the central themes of stories, plays, or poems, including how they are developed using details. 5b. Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in stories and plays, drawing on specific details in the texts. 5c. Explain how chapters, scenes, or stanzas work together to provide the overall structure of a literary text. 5d. Explain how a narrator’s or speaker’s point of view influence how events are described in stories, plays, or poems. 5e. Compare and contrast stories in the same genre on their approaches to similar themes.	

Nonfiction Text (NF)

6. Use evidence from nonfiction works to demonstrate understanding of grade-level texts.

6a. Explain the central ideas of texts, including how they are developed using details; summarize texts.

6b. Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in historical, scientific, or technical texts.

6c. Explain how series of chapters or sections fit together to provide the overall structure of informational texts (e.g., description, sequence, comparison, problem-solution, cause-effect).

6d. Explain how authors use evidence and reasons to support specific claims in texts, identifying which reasons and evidence support which claims.

6e. Integrate information from several texts on the same event or topic to demonstrate a coherent understanding of the information.

Vocabulary Development Strand

5.VD-

Word Building (WB)

1. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade-level content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

1a. Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as clues to the meaning of words or phrase.

1b. Use common Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of words (e.g., *biography*, *biology*, *biohazard*).

1c. Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), print or digital, to find the pronunciation and clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

2. Determine how words and phrases provide meaning and nuance to grade-level texts.

2a. Recognize and explain the meaning of figurative language such as metaphors and similes, in context.

2b. Distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe different states or subtleties (e.g., *sang*, *trilled*, *chirped*, *chorsed*).

Academic Vocabulary (AV)

3. Acquire and use accurately general academic and content-specific words and phrases *occurring in grade-level reading and content*, including those that signal contrast, addition, connection, and other logical relationships (e.g., *therefore*, *for example*, *meanwhile*, *on the other hand*). Use these words in discussions and writing.

Research Strand

5.RS-

Inquiry Process to Build, Present, and Use Knowledge (IP)

1. Conduct short research tasks to take some action or share findings orally or in writing by formulating research questions; gathering relevant and reliable information from both primary and secondary sources as appropriate; paraphrasing and quoting ideas and information; and respecting copyright guidelines for use of that information and any images.

Deep Reading on Topics to Build Knowledge (DR)

2. Read a series of texts organized around a variety of conceptually related topics to build knowledge about the world. (These texts should be at a range of complexity levels so students can read the texts independently, with peers, or with modest support.)

Writing Strand

5.W-

Range of Writing (RW)

1. Develop flexibility in writing by routinely engaging in the production of shorter and longer pieces for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. This could include, among others, summaries, reflections, descriptions, critiques, letters, and poetry, etc.
2. Write arguments that introduce the topic clearly; express a distinct opinion supported with adequate facts, ideas, and reasons that are logically grouped and provide a concluding section.
3. Write informational texts that introduce the topic; develop the focus with relevant facts, details, and examples from multiple sources that are logically grouped, including headings to support the purpose; and provide a concluding section.
4. Write personal or fictional narratives that establish a situation and narrator; organize around a central problem, conflict, or experience using descriptions, dialogue or pacing to develop the characters, event(s), or experience(s); and provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated events.
5. Produce clear and coherent organizational structures of multiple paragraphs in which facts and details are logically grouped and linking words and phrases connect details and ideas.
6. With support from adults and peers, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. (Editing should demonstrate command of grade-level Grammar and Conventions.)

Handwriting and Keyboarding (HWK)

7. Write in cursive legibly and fluently by hand with a consistent form and recognizable signature.
8. Use technology to produce and publish writing demonstrating sufficient command of keyboarding skills.

Oral and Digital Communications Strand

5.ODC-

Oral Communications (OC)

1. Engage in collaborative discussions about *grade-level topics and texts* with peers by carrying out assigned roles; making comments and posing and responding to questions that contribute to the discussion and elaborate on others' remarks; and reviewing key ideas expressed and drawing conclusions considering the discussion.

2. Summarize a written text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
3. Summarize the major points a speaker makes and explain how each is supported by reasons and evidence.
4. Report orally on a topic or text or present an argument, sequencing ideas logically and using appropriate facts and relevant descriptive details to support main ideas or themes and speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

FDigital Communications (DC)

5. Consider the source of information gathered digitally through such means as domains (e.g., .gov; .edu vs. .com or .tv).
6. Use information from multiple digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question or to solve a problem efficiently.
7. Analyze how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text presented digitally.

**Note: Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific Grammar and Conventions standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

Grammar and Conventions Strand

5.GC-

Grammar and Usage (GU)

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
 - 1a. Form and use irregular verbs (e.g., *lie/lay, sit/set, rise/raise*) correctly in sentences.
 - 1b. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense and number.
 - 1c. Use nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections appropriate to function.
 - 1d. Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.
 - 1e. Use coordinating (e.g., *and, but*), subordinating (e.g., *although, because*), and correlative (e.g., *either/or*) conjunctions to join words and phrases in a sentence.
 - 1f. Expand, combine, and reduce sentences for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.
 - 1g. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, using formal English when appropriate to task and situation.

Mechanics (M)

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English punctuation and capitalization when writing and reading aloud to create meaning.
 - 2a. Commas before a coordinating conjunction.
 - 2b. Commas to separate an introductory element from the rest of the sentence (e.g., *Yes, thank you, it's true, isn't it?*).
 - 2c. Underlining, quotation marks, or italics to indicate titles of works.

3. Spell grade-level words correctly, including commonly confused words (e.g., *its/it's*, *affect/effect*).

Grade 6

Reading Comprehension Strand	6.RC-
Text Complexity (TC)	
1. Independently and proficiently read and comprehend texts representing a balance of genres, cultures, and perspectives that exhibit complexity at the lower end of the grades 6–8 band. (See the Quantitative Analysis Chart for Determining Text Complexity in the Resource Reference.)	
Volume of Reading to Build Knowledge (V)	
2. Regularly engage in a volume of reading, independently, with peers, or with modest support related to the topics and themes being studied to build knowledge and vocabulary.	
Textual Evidence (TE)	
3. Draw several pieces of evidence from grade-level texts to support claims and inferences, including quoting and paraphrasing from texts accurately.	
Reading Fluency (RF)	
4. Read grade-level text with accuracy, automaticity, appropriate rate, and expression in successive readings to support comprehension (see the 2017 Hasbrouck and Tindal norms listed in Resource Reference).	
Literature (L)	
5. Use evidence from literature to demonstrate understanding of grade-level texts. <ul style="list-style-type: none">5a. Explain stated or implied themes of texts, including how they are developed using specific details from the texts.5b. Describe how characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.5c. Describe how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of texts and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.5d. Explain how authors develop the point of view of the narrator or speaker in texts.5e. Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.	
Nonfiction Text (NF)	
6. Use evidence from nonfiction works to demonstrate understanding of grade-level texts. <ul style="list-style-type: none">6a. Explain stated or implied central ideas from texts, including how they are developed using specific details from the texts; provide a summary of texts distinct from personal opinions.6b. Explain in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in texts through examples or anecdotes.	

6c. Explain how a specific sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of texts and contributes to the development of the ideas.

6d. Trace the argument and specific claims in texts, distinguishing claims that are supported by evidence and reasons from claims that are not.

6e. Compare and contrast one author's presentation of events with that of another (e.g., a memoir written by and a biography on the same person).

Vocabulary Development Strand

6.VD-

Word Building (WB)

1. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade-level content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

1a. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

1b. Use common Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., in readings on pioneers of space, determine the meanings of the words *astronaut* and *nautical*).

1c. Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), print or digital, to find the pronunciation of a word and determine and clarify its precise meaning and its part of speech.

1d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

2. Determine how words and phrases provide meaning and nuance to grade-level texts.

2a. Interpret figurative language (e.g., personification, idioms) in context.

2b. Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., *cause/effect*, *part/whole*, *item/category*) to better understand each of the words.

2c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., *house* versus *home*, *cheap* versus *affordable*).

2d. Analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning, tone (author's attitude toward the subject), or mood (emotional atmosphere).

Academic Vocabulary (AV)

3. Acquire and use accurately general academic and content-specific words and phrases *occurring in grade-level reading and content*; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. Use these words in discussions and writing.

Research Strand

6.RS-

Inquiry Process to Build, Present, and Use Knowledge (IP)

1. Conduct brief as well as multi-day research tasks to take some action or share findings orally or in writing by formulating research questions and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate; gathering and assessing the

relevance and usefulness of information from multiple reliable sources; and paraphrasing or quoting the data and conclusions of others, providing basic bibliographic information for sources, and respecting copyright guidelines for use of images.

Deep Reading on Topics to Build Knowledge (DR)

2. Read a series of texts organized around a variety of conceptually related topics to build knowledge about the world. (These texts should be at a range of complexity levels so students can read the texts independently, with peers, or with modest support.)

Writing Strand

6.W-

Range of Writing (RW)

1. Develop flexibility in writing by routinely engaging in the production of shorter and longer pieces for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. This could include, among others, summaries, reflections, descriptions, critiques, letters, and poetry, etc.
2. Write arguments that introduce and support a distinct point of view with relevant claims, evidence and reasoning; demonstrate an understanding of the topic; and provide a concluding section that follows from the argument presented.
3. Write informational texts that introduce the topic, develop the focus with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, and examples from multiple sources using appropriate strategies, such as description, comparison, and/or cause-effect; and provide a concluding section that follows from the information presented.
4. Write personal or fictional narratives that establish a situation and narrator; engage and orient the reader to the context; use narrative techniques such as description, dialogue, pacing, concrete words and sensory details to develop the characters, event(s), or experience(s); and provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated event(s).
5. Produce clear and coherent organizational structures of multiple paragraphs in which facts and ideas are logically grouped; headings, as applicable are included to support the purpose; and words, phrases, and clauses clarify the relationships between and among ideas and concepts.
6. With support from adults and peers, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach appropriate to audience and purpose. (Editing should demonstrate command of grade-level Grammar and Conventions.)

Handwriting and Keyboarding (HWK)

7. Write by hand or with technology 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 two pages in a single sitting.

Oral and Digital Communications Strand

6.ODC-

Oral Communications (OC)

1. Engage in collaborative discussions about *grade-level topics and texts* with peers by following agreed upon rules for collegial discussions, setting specific goals, and carrying out assigned roles; making comments and posing and responding to specific questions with elaboration and detail; and demonstrating understanding of various perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing.
2. Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.
3. Delineate a speaker’s argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
4. Report orally on a topic or text or present an argument, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use adequate volume and clear pronunciation.

Digital Communications (DC)

5. Consider the source of information gathered digitally through such means as domains (e.g., .gov; .edu vs. .com or .tv) and the quality of evidence presented.
6. Follow safety practices and ethical guidelines when gathering, sharing, and using information.
7. Compare and contrast a written story to a digital version, contrasting what is “seen” and “heard” when reading the text with what is perceived when listened to or watched.
8. Include digital components (e.g., graphics, images, music, sound) in presentations to clarify information.

**Note: Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year’s grade-specific Grammar and Conventions standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

Grammar and Conventions Strand

6.GC-

Grammar and Usage (GU)

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
 - 1a. Identify the eight basic parts of speech (*noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, adjective, conjunction, preposition, interjection*).
 - 1b. Recognize that a word performs different functions according to its position in the sentence.
 - 1c. Use pronouns correctly regarding case, number, and person, including intensive pronouns (e.g., *myself, ourselves*).
 - 1d. Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents).
 - 1e. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.
 - 1f. Expand, combine, or reduce sentences (e.g., adding or deleting modifiers, combining, or breaking up sentences) for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.
 - 1g. Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others’ writing and speaking and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.

Mechanics (M)

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English punctuation and capitalization when writing and reading aloud to create meaning.

2a. Commas, parentheses, and dashes to set off nonrestrictive or parenthetical elements.

2b. Colons to separate hours and minutes and to introduce a list.

3. Spell derivatives correctly by applying knowledge of bases and affixes.

Grade 7

Reading Comprehension Strand	7.RC-
Text Complexity (TC)	
1. Independently and proficiently read and comprehend texts representing a balance of genres, cultures, and perspectives that exhibit complexity at the midrange of the grades 6–8 band. (See the Quantitative Analysis Chart for Determining Text Complexity in the Resource Reference.)	
Volume of Reading to Build Knowledge (V)	
2. Regularly engage in a volume of reading, independently, with peers, or with modest support related to the topics and themes being studied to build knowledge and vocabulary.	
Textual Evidence (TE)	
3. Draw several pieces of evidence from grade-level texts to support claims and inferences, including quoting or paraphrasing from texts accurately and tracing where in texts relevant evidence is located.	
Reading Fluency (RF)	
4. Read grade-level text with accuracy, automaticity, appropriate rate, and expression in successive readings to support comprehension (see the 2017 Hasbrouck and Tindal norms listed in Resource Reference).	
Literature (L)	
5. Use evidence from literature to demonstrate understanding of grade-level texts. <ul style="list-style-type: none">5a. Explain stated or implied themes, analyzing their development over the course of texts; provide objective summaries of literary texts.5b. Explain how particular elements of stories or dramas interact including how setting shapes the characters or plot.5c. Compare and contrast the structure of two or more stories, poems, and plays and analyze how the differing structure of each literary text contributes to its meaning and style.5d. Explain how authors develop and contrast the point of view of different characters or narrators in texts.5e. Compare and contrast fictional portrayals of a time, place, or character and historical accounts of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history.	
Nonfiction Text (NF)	
6. Use evidence from nonfiction works to demonstrate understanding of grade-level texts. <ul style="list-style-type: none">6a. Explain stated or implied central ideas of texts, analyzing their development over the course of texts; provide objective summaries of texts.6b. Analyze the relationships or interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in texts (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).	

6c. Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and development of ideas.

6d. Trace the argument and specific claims in texts and assess whether the evidence is sufficient to support the claims.

6e. Compare and contrast how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.

Vocabulary Development Strand

7.VD-

Word Building (WB)

1. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade-level content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

1a. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

1b. Use common Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., in readings about earth sciences, determine the meanings of the words *geologist* and *geophysics*).

1c. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), print or digital, to find the pronunciation of a grade-level word and determine or clarify its precise meaning and its part of speech.

1d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

2. Determine how words and phrases provide meaning and nuance to grade-level texts.

2a. Interpret figurative language (e.g., *euphemism*, *oxymoron*) in context.

2b. Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonym/antonym, analogy) to better understand each of the words.

2c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., *curious* versus *nosy*, *assertive* versus *pushy*).

2d. Analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning, tone, or mood, including the impact of repeated use of certain images.

Academic Vocabulary (AV)

3. Acquire and use accurately general academic and content-specific words and phrases *occurring in grade-level reading and content*; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. Use these words in discussions and writing.

Research Strand

7.RS-

Inquiry Process to Build, Present, and Use Knowledge (IP)

1. Conduct brief as well as multi-day research tasks to take some action or share findings orally or in writing by formulating research questions and generating additional questions for further research; gathering and assessing the relevance and usefulness of information from multiple reliable sources; and summarizing, paraphrasing, or quoting the data and conclusions of others, avoiding plagiarism, and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.

Deep Reading on Topics to Build Knowledge (DR)

2. Read a series of texts organized around a variety of conceptually related topics to build knowledge about the world. (These texts should be at a range of complexity levels so students can read the texts independently, with peers, or with modest support.)

Writing Strand

7.W-

Range of Writing (RW)

1. Develop flexibility in writing by routinely engaging in the production of shorter and longer pieces for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. This could include, among others, summaries, reflections, descriptions, critiques, letters, and poetry, etc.
2. Write arguments that introduce and support a well-defined point of view with appropriate claims, relevant evidence and clear reasoning, demonstrate a keen understanding of the topic or text, and provide a concluding section that follows from the argument presented.
3. Write informational texts that introduce the topic clearly; develop the focus with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples from multiple sources using strategies such as description, enumeration, classification, comparison, problem-solution, and/or cause-effect; and provide a concluding section that follows from the information presented.
4. Write personal or fictional narratives that establish a situation and narrator; engage and orient the reader to the context and point of view; use narrative techniques such as description, dialogue, pacing and a variety of precise words and transitional words and phrases to develop the characters, convey sequence, and signal shifts from one timeframe or setting to another; and provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated event(s).
5. Produce clear and coherent organizational structures in which ideas and other information are logically grouped; headings and other formatting support the purpose; and precise language, content-specific vocabulary, and appropriate transitions create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
6. With support from adults and peers, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. (Editing should demonstrate command of grade-level Grammar and Conventions.)

Handwriting and Keyboarding (HWK)

7. Write by hand or with technology to produce and publish writing and link to and cite sources as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

Oral and Digital Communications Strand

7.ODC-

Oral Communications (OC)

1. Engage in collaborative discussions about *grade-level topics and texts* by following rules for collegial discussions, defining individual roles, and setting specific goals; posing questions that elicit elaboration and responding to others with relevant observations; and acknowledging new information expressed by others and, when warranted, modifying their own views.
2. Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how the ideas clarify a topic, text, or issue under study.
3. Delineate a speaker’s argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
4. Report orally on a topic or text or present an argument, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples; use appropriate vocabulary volume and clear pronunciation.

Digital Communications (DC)

5. Engage in positive, safe, legal, and ethical behavior when using information and communication technologies, including social interactions online or when using networked devices.
6. Consider the reliability of websites and blog posts through such means as determining if they are run by established institutions, have named expertise, link to other reputable websites, and are current.
7. Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or digital version of the text, analyzing each medium’s portrayal of the subject.
8. Include digital components in presentations to clarify claims and findings and emphasize salient points.

**Note: Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year’s grade-specific Grammar and Conventions standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

Grammar and Conventions Strand

7.GC-

Grammar and Usage (GU)

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
 - 1a. Identify the eight basic parts of speech (*noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, adjective, conjunction, preposition, interjection*).
 - 1b. Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences.
 - 1c. Place phrases and clauses correctly within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers.
 - 1d. Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.
 - 1e. Expand, combine, or reduce sentences (e.g., adding or deleting modifiers, combining, or breaking up sentences) for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.

1f. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

Mechanics (M)

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English punctuation and capitalization when writing and reading aloud to create meaning.

2a. Use commas, parentheses, and dashes set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.

2b. Use commas to separate coordinate adjectives (e.g., *It was a fascinating, enjoyable movie*).

3. Spell derivatives correctly by applying knowledge of bases and affixes.

Grade 8

Reading Comprehension Strand	8.RC-
Text Complexity (TC)	
1. Independently and proficiently read and comprehend texts representing a balance of genres, cultures, and perspectives that exhibit complexity at the higher end of the grades 6–8 band. (See the Quantitative Analysis Chart for Determining Text Complexity in the Resource Reference.)	
Volume of Reading to Build Knowledge (V)	
2. Regularly engage in a volume of reading, independently, with peers, or with modest support related to the topics and themes being studied to build knowledge and vocabulary.	
Textual Evidence (TE)	
3. Draw several pieces of evidence from grade-level texts that strongly supports both what is said explicitly and what is implied, including quoting, and paraphrasing from relevant sections and accurately and citing textual references.	
Reading Fluency (RF)	
4. Read grade-level text with accuracy, automaticity appropriate rate, and expression in successive readings to support comprehension (see the 2017 Hasbrouck and Tindal norms listed in Resource Reference).	
Literature (L)	
5. Use evidence from literature to demonstrate understanding of grade-level texts. 5a. Explain stated or implied themes, analyzing their development over the course of texts, and the relationship of characters, setting, and plot to those themes. 5b. Analyze how characters are revealed through particular lines of dialogue or events in literary texts. 5c. Analyze how authors structure texts to advance a plot, explaining how each event gives rise to the next or foreshadows a future event. 5d. Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader created with dramatic irony result in such effects as suspense or humor. 5e. Relate themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works to contemporary stories, poems, or drama.	
Nonfiction Text (NF)	
6. Use evidence from nonfiction works to demonstrate understanding of grade-level texts. 6a. Explain stated or implied central ideas of texts, analyzing their development over the course of the texts, including the relationship of individuals, ideas, or events to the central ideas; provide objective summaries of texts. 6b. Analyze how texts make connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).	

6c. Analyze the structural elements of a text, including the role of specific sentences, paragraphs, and text features in developing and refining key concepts.

6d. Trace the argument and specific claims in texts and assess whether all the evidence presented is relevant and whether irrelevant evidence was introduced.

6e. Analyze cases in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.

Vocabulary Development Strand

8.VD-

Word Building (WB)

1. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade-level content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

1a. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

1b. Use common Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., in readings about mathematics, determine the meanings of the words *percentile* and *perimeter*).

1c. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), print or digital, to find the pronunciation of a grade-level word and determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.

1d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary.

2. Determine how words and phrases provide meaning and nuance to texts.

2a. Interpret figurative language (e.g., verbal irony, puns) in context.

2b. Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., homonyms, person to location, object to use) to better understand each of the words.

2c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., *crowd* versus *mob*, *fired* versus *laid off*).

2d. Analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

Academic Vocabulary (AV)

3. Acquire and use accurately general academic and content-specific words and phrases *occurring in grade-level reading and content*; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. Use these words in discussions and writing.

Research Strand

8.RS-

Inquiry Process to Build, Present, and Use Knowledge (IP)

1. Conduct brief as well as multi-day research tasks to take some action or share findings orally or in writing by formulating research questions and generating additional questions that allow for multiple avenues of

exploration; gathering and assessing the relevance and credibility of information from multiple sources; and summarizing, paraphrasing, or quoting the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citations.

Deep Reading on Topics to Build Knowledge (DR)

2. Read a series of texts organized around a variety of conceptually related topics to build knowledge about the world. (These texts should be at a range of complexity levels so students can read the texts independently, with peers, or with modest support.)

Writing Strand

8.W-

Range of Writing (RW)

1. Develop flexibility in writing by routinely engaging in the production of shorter and longer pieces for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. This could include, among others, summaries, reflections, descriptions, critiques, letters, and poetry, etc.
2. Write arguments or make claims that support well-defined points of view effectively with relevant evidence and clear reasoning in ways that logically advance the claim(s) made; demonstrate a nuanced understanding of the topic; and provide a concluding section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
3. Write informational texts that introduce the topic clearly; preview what is to follow by establishing and maintaining a clear focus with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, and examples from multiple sources using appropriate strategies, such as description, enumeration, classification, comparison, problem-solution, and/or cause-effect; and provide a concluding section that follows from the information presented.
4. Write personal or fictional narratives that establish a situation and narrator; engage and orient the reader to the context and one or multiple points of view; use a variety of techniques such as description, dialogue, pacing, and precise words and phrases, sensory language and transition words to develop the characters, capture the action and convey sequence, and signal shifts from one timeframe or setting to another; and provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated event(s).
5. Produce clear and coherent organizational structures in which ideas and other information are logically grouped; headings, other formatting, and graphics (e.g., charts and tables) support the purpose; and precise language, content-specific vocabulary, and varied transitions create cohesion and clarify the relationships between and among ideas and concepts.
6. With support from adults and peers, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. (Editing should demonstrate command of grade-level Grammar and Conventions.)

Handwriting and Keyboarding (HWK)

7. Write by hand or with technology to produce and publish writing, link to and cite sources, present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently, and interact and collaborate with others.

Oral and Digital Communications Strand

8.ODC-

Oral Communications (OC)

1. Engage in collaborative discussions about *grade-level topics and texts* with peers by following rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, defining individual roles, and tracking progress on specific goals; propelling conversations forward by posing and responding to questions, relating the current discussion to broader themes, and connecting the ideas of several speakers; and when warranted, qualifying or justifying one's views considering new evidence heard.
2. Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the intent (e.g., social, political, commercial) behind its presentation.
3. Analyze a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
4. Report orally on a topic or text or present an argument, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, and well-chosen details; use appropriate vocabulary, volume, and clear pronunciation.

Digital Communications (DC)

5. Demonstrate an understanding of and respect for the rights and obligations of using and sharing intellectual property.
6. Consider the evidence websites or blog posts use to support their position (e.g., *Are they transparent about their sources? Do they link to peer-reviewed articles?*).
7. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums—print or digital text—to present a particular topic or idea.
8. Integrate digital displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.

**Note: Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific Grammar and Conventions standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

Grammar and Conventions Strand

8.GC-

Grammar and Usage (GU)

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
 - 1a. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.
 - 1b. Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, and conditional mood.
 - 1c. Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice to achieve particular effects.
 - 1d. Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences.
 - 1e. Expand, combine, or reduce sentences (e.g., adding or deleting modifiers, combining, or breaking up sentences) for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.

1f. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

Mechanics (M)

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English punctuation and capitalization when writing and reading aloud to create meaning.

2a. Use commas, ellipsis, and dashes when writing and reading aloud to indicate a pause, break, or omission.

3. Spell derivatives correctly by applying knowledge of bases and affixes.

Grades 9/10

Reading Comprehension Strand	9/10.RC-
Text Complexity (TC)	
1. Independently and proficiently read and comprehend texts representing a balance of genres, cultures, and perspectives that exhibit complexity at the higher end of the grades 9–10 band. (See the Quantitative Analysis Chart for Determining Text Complexity in the Resource Reference.)	
Volume of Reading to Build Knowledge (V)	
2. Regularly engage in a volume of reading related to the topics and themes being studied to build knowledge and vocabulary. (These texts can include a range of genres and should be at a range of complexity levels so students can read the texts independently, with peers, or with modest support.)	
Textual Evidence (TE)	
3. Draw ample evidence from grade-level texts to support claims and inferences, attending to the precise details of the authors' descriptions or explanations through quoting, paraphrasing, and citing textual references.	
Reading Fluency (RF)	
4. Read grade-level text with accuracy, automaticity, appropriate rate, and expression in successive readings to support comprehension (see the 2017 Hasbrouck and Tindal norms listed in Resource Reference).	
Literature (L)	
5. Use evidence from literature to demonstrate understanding of grade-level texts. <ul style="list-style-type: none">5a. Analyze the development of themes over the course of the text, including how themes emerge and are shaped and refined by specific details.5b. Analyze how complex characters—those with multiple or conflicting motivations—develop over the course of texts, interact with other characters, and advance the plot.5c. Analyze how authors structure specific parts of a text, including the choice of where to begin and end a scene, and explain how they contribute to its overall structure and meaning.5d. Analyze points of view or cultural experiences that represent diverse voices and perspectives in works of literature.5e. Compare multiple interpretations of texts (including recorded or live production), evaluating how each version interprets the source text.	
Nonfiction Text (NF)	
6. Use evidence from nonfiction works to demonstrate understanding of grade-level texts. <ul style="list-style-type: none">6a. Analyze the development of central ideas over the course of texts, including how they emerge and are shaped and refined by specific details; provide accurate summaries of how key events or ideas develop.	

- 6b.** Explain how authors unfold an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn among them.
- 6c.** Analyze how authors use structure to explain relationships among concepts in a text, including how key sentences, paragraphs, and sections of texts contribute to the whole.
- 6d.** Assess the argument and specific claims in texts, examining whether the reasoning is valid, the evidence is relevant, and whether there are any false or unsupported statements.
- 6e.** Analyze seminal documents of historical and literary significance, including how they address related themes and concepts of liberty, equality, individual responsibility, and justice.

Vocabulary Development Strand

9/10.VD-

Word Building (WB)

- 1.** Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade-level content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
 - 1a.** Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or portion of text; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
 - 1b.** Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., *defend, defense, defendant, defensible*).
 - 1c.** Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), print or digital, to find the pronunciation of a grade-level word and determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, or its etymology.
 - 1d.** Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).
- 2.** Determine how words and phrases provide meaning and nuance to texts.
 - 2a.** Use Greek, Latin, and Norse mythology, and other works often alluded to in American and world literature to understand the meaning of words or phrases (e.g., reference to “Achilles’s heel” from Greek mythology).
 - 2b.** Interpret figurative language (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze its role in texts (e.g., The Party’s embrace of the slogans “War is Peace” and “Freedom is Slavery” in Orwell’s *1984*).
 - 2c.** Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations (e.g., *shrewd, clever, cunning, brainy*).
 - 2d.** Analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how Jonathan Swift uses exaggeration to create his satirical essay “A Modest Proposal”).

Academic Vocabulary (AV)

- 3.** Acquire and use accurately general academic and content-specific words and phrases *occurring in grade-level reading and content*; demonstrate independence when gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. Use these words in discussions and writing.

Research Strand	9/10.RS-
Inquiry Process to Build, Present, and Use Knowledge (IP)	
<p>1. Conduct brief as well as multi-day research projects to take some action or share findings orally or in writing by formulating a research question and considering alternative avenues of inquiry; gathering relevant information from a variety authoritative sources and assessing which provide the most reliable and useful information; and following a standard approved format (e.g., <i>APA, MLA, Chicago</i>) for citations and bibliographies.</p>	
Deep Reading on Topics to Build Knowledge (DR)	
<p>2. Read a series of texts organized around a variety of conceptually related topics to build knowledge about the world. (These texts should be at a range of complexity levels so students can read the texts independently, with peers, or with modest support.)</p>	

**Note: In grades 9/10, the focus is on informational text writing. While all three text types are important, the Idaho standards put particular emphasis on students' ability to convey information accurately in these grade levels. Of course, the standards leave the inclusion of writing arguments and narratives to teacher discretion.*

Writing Strand	9/10.W-
Range of Writing (RW)	
<p>1. Develop flexibility in writing by routinely engaging in the production of shorter and longer pieces for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. This could include, among others, summaries, reflections, descriptions, critiques, letters, and poetry, etc.</p> <p>2. <i>(Argument writing is a priority in grades 11/12; teachers can include argument at their discretion.)</i></p> <p>3. Write informational texts that introduce the topic clearly by providing needed context, presenting well-defined theses, and previewing what is to follow; develop the topic through sustained use of the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples from multiple authoritative sources appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic; and provide a concluding section that follows from the information or explanation presented.</p> <p>4. <i>(Teachers can include narrative writing at their discretion.)</i></p> <p>5. Produce clear and coherent organizational structures that attend to the norms and conventions of the writing genre and in which ideas, concepts, and other information are logically grouped; include formatting and graphics to support the purpose and create a unified whole; and use precise language, content-specific vocabulary, and varied transitions to link major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between and among ideas and concepts.</p> <p>6. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. (Editing should demonstrate command of grade-level Grammar and Conventions.)</p>	
Handwriting and Keyboarding (HWK)	

7. Write by hand or with technology to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.

Oral and Digital Communications Strand

9/10.ODC-

Oral Communications (OC)

1. Engage in collaborative discussions about *grade-level topics and texts* with peers by setting rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, defining individual roles, tracking progress on specific goals; responding to others' questions and comments and diverse perspectives with precise evidence, relevant observations, and ideas; and making new connections considering the evidence and reasoning presented.
2. Analyze the effect of text and images on the reader's or viewer's emotions in print journalism, and images, sound, and text in electronic journalism, distinguishing techniques used in each to achieve these effects.
3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, identifying any fallacious reasoning or exaggerated or distorted evidence.
4. Report orally on a topic or text or present an argument, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound reasoning, and well-chosen details in a style appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.

Digital Communications (DC)

5. Manage personal data to maintain digital privacy and security and be conscious and aware of data-collection technology used to track and exploit navigation online.
6. Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse digital media, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.
7. Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different media (e.g., a person's life story in print or digitally), determining which details are emphasized in each account.
8. Make strategic use of digital media presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

**Note: Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific Grammar and Conventions standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

Grammar and Conventions Strand

9/10.GC-

Grammar and Usage (GU)

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
 - 1a. Use verbs in the active and passive voice and in the conditional and subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects (e.g., emphasizing the actor or the action; expressing uncertainty or describing a state contrary to fact).
 - 1b. Use parallel structure.

1c. Place modifiers properly.

1d. Use the subjunctive mood accurately.

1e. Avoid run-on sentences, comma splices, and sentence fragments.

1f. Use subordination, coordination, apposition, and other devices to indicate the relationship between ideas clearly.

1g. Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations.

1h. Use various types of clauses (independent, dependent, noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations.

1i. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, using formal English when appropriate to task and situation.

1j. Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.

Mechanics (M)

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English punctuation and capitalization when writing and reading aloud to create meaning.

2a. Use a semicolon (or appropriate conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses.

2b. Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation.

2c. Observe hyphenation conventions.

3. Spell correctly, consulting reference materials to check as needed.

Oral and Digital Communications Strand

11/12.ODC-

Oral Communications (OC)

1. Engage in collaborative discussions about *grade-level topics and texts* with peers by promoting civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, establishing individual roles, and tracking progress on specific goals; propelling conversations forward by synthesizing comments and ideas of several speakers and responding to diverse perspectives with relevant observations and ideas, resolving contradictions when possible; and determining what additional information is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.
2. Analyze how visual and sound techniques or design (such as special effects, camera angles, and music) carry or influence messages in various media.
3. Evaluate a speaker’s point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.
4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence orally, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning; ensure alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed; and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks.

Digital Communications (DC)

5. Demonstrate the responsible and ethical use of information and communication technologies by distinguishing between kinds of information that should and should not be publicly shared and describing the consequences of a poor decision.
6. Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse digital media to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data.
7. Analyze multiple interpretations of a text (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text.
8. Make strategic use of digital media in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

**Note: Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year’s grade-specific Grammar and Conventions standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

Grammar and Conventions Strand

11/12.GC-

Grammar and Usage (GU)

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
 - 1a. Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested, consulting references (e.g., *Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary of English Usage*, *Garner’s Modern American Usage*) as needed.

1b. Use a variety of sentence structures, including compound and compound-complex sentences with effective coordination and subordination of ideas and parallel, repetitive, and analogous sentence structures.

1c. Write and edit work so that it conforms to the guidelines in a style manual (e.g., *MLA Handbook*, *Turabian's Manual for Writers*) appropriate for the writing type.

1d. Vary syntax for effect, consulting references (e.g., *Tufte's Artful Sentences*) for guidance as needed.

1e. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, using formal English when appropriate to task and situation; and distinguish where informal discourse is more appropriate.

Mechanics (M)

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of English punctuation and capitalization when writing and reading aloud to create meaning.

2a. Reflect appropriate manuscript requirements in writing, including correct use of seriation (headings and subheadings).

3. Spell correctly, consulting reference materials to check as needed.

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