

Highlights: 2017 Revisions to the ELA/Literacy Standards

This resource presents revisions to the Massachusetts ELA/literacy standards that educators should keep in mind as they develop curriculum and plan instruction. Changes to the anchor standards are shown first, followed by changes to grade level standards and finally changes to standards for literacy in the content areas. Note: where a revision applies to more than one grade, the grade span is indicated in the first instance of the revision.

ELA/Literacy Anchor Standards

- **Reading Standard MA.8.A:** deleted; content adapted for integration into other standards, primarily Reading Literature Standards 4 and 5, for coherence and flexibility. *Affects grades PK–12.*
- **Writing Standard 3:** edited to encourage more flexible and nuanced approaches to narrative writing and to incorporate expectations from 2010 Writing Standard MA.3.A. *Affects grades PK–12.*
- **Writing Standard MA.3.A:** deleted; content adapted for integration into other standards, primarily Writing Standard 3, for coherence and flexibility. *Affects grades K–12.*
- **Speaking and Listening Standard 4:** new expectation of appropriate vocabulary use reinforces Language standards. *Affects grades 1–12.*

Pre-Kindergarten ELA/Literacy

- **Reading Literature Standard 5:** adapted to incorporate expectations for awareness of rhythm from 2010 Reading Literature Standard MA.8.A.
- **Speaking and Listening Standard 4:** “real or imagined” deleted to avoid false dichotomy.
- **Language Standard 1:**
 - Subpoints reorganized and condensed to emphasize learning and application in authentic contexts. *Also applies to grades K–10.*
 - Added an expectation for number use to reinforce math standards. *Also applies to grade K.*

Kindergarten ELA/Literacy

- **Reading Literature Standard 5:** adapted to incorporate expectations for poem and story characteristics from 2010 Reading Literature Standard MA.8.A.
- **Reading Literature Standard 6:** added emphasis on more generalized knowledge of book characteristics.
- **Reading Foundational Skills Standard 4:** “emergent reader texts” changed to “early emergent reader texts” for grade-appropriateness (“early emergent reader texts” defined in glossary).
- **Writing Standard 3:** new material emphasizes poetry, incorporates expectations from 2010 Writing Standard MA.3.A, and reinforces Reading standards. *Also applies to grades 1–5.*
- **Writing Standard 5:** added expectation of appropriate vocabulary use to reinforce Language standards. *Also applies to grades 1–12.*

- **Writing Standard 10:** begins in kindergarten instead of in grade 3 to support other Writing standards. *Also affects grades 1 and 2.*
- **Language Standard 1:** added expectation of reinforcement of previously learned skills. *Also applies to grades 1–12.*
- **Language Standard 2:**
 - Edited to reflect strengthened and relocated progression of handwriting expectations from 2010 Language Standard 1. *Also applies to grades 1– 5.*
 - Added an expectation for writing numbers to reinforce math standards. *Also applies to grades 1–3.*
- **Language Standard 4b:** deleted (skill remains in grade 1 standards).
- **Language Standard 6:** added emphasis on learning and application of vocabulary in contexts related to grade-appropriate content. *Also applies to grades 1–2.*

Grade 1 ELA/Literacy

- **Reading Literature Standard 5:** adapted to incorporate expectations for story types, including folktales and fairy tales, from 2010 Reading Literature Standard MA.8.A.
- **Reading Literature Standard 8:** note clarifies that Reading Literature Standard 2 addresses “arguments” in literature. *Also applies to grades 2–12.*
- **Reading Literature and Reading Informational Text Standard 10:** clarified and broadened expectations for range and complexity of reading. *Also applies to grades 2–12.*
- **Writing Standard 4:** begins in grade 1 instead of in grade 3 to support other Writing standards. *Also affects grade 2.*
- **Language Standard 1:** edited to reflect revised progression of sentence types students are expected to produce in grades 1–3. *Also applies to grades 2 and 3.*

Grade 2 ELA/Literacy

- **Reading Literature Standard 6:** adapted to incorporate expectations for dialogue from 2010 Reading Literature Standard MA.8.A.
- **Reading Informational Text Standard 3 and Speaking and Listening Standard 4:** added reference to math to support literacy guidance in 2017 math Framework. *Also applies to grades 3–5.*
- **Language Standard 4:** edited to reflect a strengthened progression of expectations for abbreviations and symbols in elementary grades. *Also applies to grades 3–5.*

Grade 3 ELA/Literacy

- **Reading Literature Standard 5:** adapted to incorporate expectations for elements of fiction from 2010 Reading Literature standard MA.8.A.
- **Reading Informational Text Standard 7:** added reference to numbers and symbols to reinforce math standards.
- **Writing Standard 4:**
 - Omitted reference to instructional support to keep focus on student outcomes. *Applies wherever similar phrases appear in standards for grades 3 and higher.*
 - Added expectation for consideration of audience.

Grade 4 ELA/Literacy

- **Reading Literature Standard 4:** adapted to incorporate expectations for figurative language from 2010 Reading Literature Standard MA.8.A.
- **Reading Literature Standard 5:** broadened to include structural elements of prose.
- **Writing Standard 1a:** added reference to paragraphs and sections to provide consistency with Writing Standard 2.
- **Writing Standard 9:** omitted examples to avoid emphasizing some Reading Literature/Reading Informational Text standards over others. *Also applies to grades 5–12.*

Grade 5 ELA/Literacy

- **Reading Literature and Reading Informational Text Standard 1:** added references to paraphrasing to reinforce Writing standards.
- **Reading Literature Standard 4:** added expectation of attention to the effects of figurative language.
- **Reading Literature Standard 6:** clarified the standard’s applicability to various text types.
- **Reading Informational Text Standard 2:** edited to allow for texts with only one main idea.
- **Reading Informational Text Standard 5:** to smooth vertical progression of standard, edited to allow for analysis of a single text.
- **Writing Standards 1a and 2a:** added references to paragraphs and sections to build on grade 4 Writing standards. *Also applies to grades 6–8.*

Grade 6 ELA

- **Reading Literature and Reading Informational Text Standard 1:** added references to quoting and paraphrasing to reinforce Writing standards. *Also applies to grades 7 and 8.*

- **Reading Literature Standard 3:** edited to allow for application to poems. *Also applies to grades 7, 8, and 11–12.*
- **Reading Literature Standard 4:** edited to smooth progression of concepts such as tone, mood, and repetition through the middle grades. *Also applies to grades 7 and 8.*
- **Reading Informational Text Standard 2:** edited to consistently allow for studying one or more central ideas throughout middle grades. *Also applies to grades 7 and 8.*
- **Reading Informational Text Standard 4:** to smooth standard’s progression through middle grades, edited to expect attention to effect of word choice on meaning and tone.
- **Reading Informational Text Standard 5:** added reference to text features to reinforce Writing standards. *Also applies to grades 7 and 8.*
- **Writing Standards 1 and 2:** edited to encourage wider variety of writing tasks and products. *Also applies to grades 7–12.*
- **Writing Standard 7:** edited to expect more sustained research as well as shorter projects. *Also applies to grades 7 and 8.*
- **Language Standard 1:** revised to move expectations for phrases and clauses from grade 7 to grade 6 and expectations for pronouns from grade 6 to grade 7. *Also applies to grade 7.*
- **Language Standard 2:** edited to expect attention to variations in conventional spelling. *Also applies to grades 7–12.*
- **Language Standard 3:** edited to focus on variation and consistency in middle grades and on concision and precision in high school grades. *Also applies to grades 7–12.*

Grade 7 ELA

- **Reading Literature Standard 4:** adapted to incorporate expectations for mood and tone from 2010 Reading Literature Standard MA.8.A.
- **Reading Literature Standard 5:** edited to allow for study of style as well as meaning and of prose as well as poetry and drama.
- **Reading Literature Standard 7:** omitted expectation for analyzing techniques specific to a medium.

Grade 8 ELA

- **Reading Literature Standard 4:** adapted to incorporate expectations for irony from 2010 Reading Literature Standard MA.8.A.
- **Reading Literature Standard 7:** edited to allow for application to poems and audio texts.

Grades 9–10 ELA

- Standards listed below: edited for alignment with post-secondary approaches to textual analysis—for example, to acknowledge inconsistencies and omitted perspectives in texts
 - **Reading Literature Standard 4**
 - **Reading Literature Standard 6**
 - **Reading Literature Standard 7**
 - **Reading Informational Text Standard 3**
 - **Reading Informational Text Standard 4**
 - **Reading Informational Text Standard 7**
 - **Reading Informational Text Standard 8**
- **Reading Literature Standard 6:** adapted to incorporate expectations from 2010 Reading Literature Standard MA.8.A for relating a text to its cultural context.
- **Reading Informational Text Standard 9:** edited to allow for study of non-US historical documents. *Also applies to grades 11–12.*

Grades 11–12 ELA

- Standards listed below: edited for alignment with post-secondary approaches to textual analysis—for example, to acknowledge inconsistencies and omitted perspectives in texts
 - **Reading Literature Standard 4**
 - **Reading Literature Standard 5**
 - **Reading Literature Standard 6**
 - **Reading Literature Standard 7**
 - **Reading Informational Text Standard 4**
 - **Reading Informational Text Standard 5**
- **Reading Literature Standard 7:** adapted to incorporate expectations from 2010 Reading Literature Standard MA.8.A for bringing various critical lenses to literary analysis.

Grades 6–12 Literacy in the Content Areas

- **Reading in History and Social Science and Reading in Science and CTE Subjects Standard 1:** added references to quoting and paraphrasing to reinforce Writing standards. *Applies to grades 6-8.*
- **Reading in History and Social Science and Reading in Science and CTE Subjects Standard 4:** edited to emphasize academic (tier 2) along with domain-specific (tier 3) language.
- **Writing Standards 1 and 2:** edited to encourage wider variety of writing tasks and products.
- **Writing Standard 7:** expects more sustained research as well as shorter projects. *Applies to grades 6-8.*
- **Speaking and Listening Standards 1–6:** new for Literacy in the Content Areas.