

Alabama Course of Study English Language Arts (2021)

Founded in 2007, Great Minds PBC has evolved from an education advocacy start-up to a respected curriculum developer providing the highest-quality materials and professional development to schools and districts nationwide. In pursuit of its goal of raising expectations for every student, Great Minds® enlists educators to write curricula based on proven learning strategies to reward students' natural curiosity, build knowledge, and cultivate lifelong critical-thinking skills. Writing teams collaborate to ensure a consistent structure and vision for learning within and across all grade levels. We are pleased to bring you our newest kindergarten through grade 5 foundational skills offering, *Arts & Letters™: Reading Foundations*.

Reading Foundations provides systematic, explicit instruction in the foundational reading skills students need to become proficient, confident readers. Grounded in the Science of Reading, lessons develop phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, word recognition, and fluency in the early grades, advancing to morphology, advanced spelling, and reading multisyllabic words in grades 3–5. The program builds the decoding and word-analysis skills students rely on to read increasingly complex texts. The curriculum provides guidance for supporting all learners at key moments in the lessons.

Each grade in *Reading Foundations* contains 160 lessons, comprising a full year of instruction. *Reading Foundations* was intentionally designed to be implemented alongside *Arts & Letters: Language Arts*, the knowledge-building English language arts core. Together, the two programs form a comprehensive literacy block in which students learn foundational skills and immediately apply them to rich, knowledge-building texts—building both strong reading skills and deep knowledge. Through this strategic integration, students can successfully achieve the proficiencies of Alabama standards while benefiting from the coherent, research-based design of *Arts & Letters*. A detailed alignment analysis between Alabama standards and *Reading Foundations* follows.

Literacy Foundations

Fluency

Alabama Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
LF.FL.5 Demonstrate fluency when reading grade-level text and when responding through writing or speaking.	Grade 4, Lessons 8, 11, 16, 26, 29, 33, 37, 43, 47, 51, 55, 61, 65, 69, 73, 83, 87, 91, 95, 101, 105, 110, 113, 123, 127, 131, 135, 141, 145, 149, 153 <i>Language Arts</i> addresses writing and speaking fluently in response to texts in grade 4.
LF.FL.REC.R.6 Read grade-level text orally with appropriate pauses, phrasing, stress, intonation, rate, and integration to support comprehension.	Grade 4, Lessons 8, 11, 16, 26, 29, 33, 37, 43, 47, 51, 55, 61, 65, 69, 73, 83, 87, 91, 95, 101, 105, 110, 113, 123, 127, 131, 135, 141, 145, 149, 153 <i>Reading Foundations</i> addresses appropriate pauses in Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2; the program does not explicitly address integration. Kindergarten, Lessons 61, 82, 112, 135, 142 Grade 1, Lessons 32, 52, 65 Grade 2: Lesson 18, 31, 41, 88
LF.FL.REC.R.7 Read words with irregular and regular spelling patterns accurately and automatically.	Grade 4, Lessons 1–16, 23–38, 41–56, 59–74, 81–96, 99–114, 121–136, 139–154

Literacy Foundations

Phonics

Alabama Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
LF.PH.1 Apply knowledge of grade-appropriate phoneme-grapheme correspondences, syllable types, and morphological structure to read unfamiliar multisyllabic words accurately, both in context and in isolation.	Grade 4, Lessons 1–14, 16, 23–33, 35–38, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49–56, 59–74, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89–96, 99–114, 122, 123, 125–136, 139–154
LF.PH.EXP.W.4 Apply knowledge of roots, prefixes, and suffixes to encode unfamiliar multisyllabic words.	Grade 4, Lessons 5–7, 12, 23–25, 27–28, 30–32, 34, 36, 38, 41–42, 44–46, 48, 50, 52–54, 56, 59–60, 62–64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 81–82, 84–86, 88–90, 92–94, 96, 99–100, 102, 104, 106–107, 109, 112, 114, 121–122, 124–126, 128–130, 132–134, 136, 139–140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 152, 154
LF.PH.REC.R.2 Determine and use the correct syllable type(s) to decode unfamiliar multisyllabic words, including open, closed, vowel-consonant-e, r-controlled, vowel team (including diphthongs), consonant-le, and “leftovers” including odd and schwa syllables.	<i>Reading Foundations</i> partially addresses this standard in grade 3; the program does not explicitly address odd syllables. Grade 3, Lessons 1–5
LF.PH.REC.R.3 Apply knowledge of roots, prefixes, and suffixes to decode unfamiliar multisyllabic words.	Grade 4, Lessons 1–14, 16, 23–33, 35–38, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49–56, 59–74, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89–96, 99–114, 122, 123, 125–136, 139–154

Literacy Foundations

Writing

Alabama Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
LF.WR.EXP.W.34 Write fluently and legibly in cursive, using correctly formed letters with appropriate spacing.	<i>Reading Foundations</i> addresses cursive writing in grade 3. Grade 3, Lessons 6–20

Alabama Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
LF.WR.EXP.W.38 Compose complete sentences with correct subject-verb agreement, punctuation, and usage.	Grade 4, Lessons 5–7, 12, 15, 23–25, 27, 28, 30–32, 34, 36, 38, 41, 42, 44–46, 48, 50, 52–54, 56, 59, 60, 62–64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 81, 82, 84–86, 88–90, 92–94, 96, 99, 100, 102, 104, 106, 107, 109, 112, 114, 121, 122, 124–126, 128–130, 132–134, 136, 139, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 152, 154
LF.WR.EXP.W.38.f Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.	Grade 4, Lessons 5–7, 12, 15, 23–25, 27, 28, 30–32, 34, 36, 38, 41, 42, 44–46, 48, 50, 52–54, 56, 59, 60, 62–64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 81, 82, 84–86, 88–90, 92–94, 96, 99, 100, 102, 104, 106, 107, 109, 112, 114, 121, 122, 124–126, 128–130, 132–134, 136, 139, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 152, 154