

Arkansas English Language Arts Standards (2023)

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 Arkansas standards while benefiting from the coherent, research-based design of *Arts & Letters*. A detailed alignment analysis between Arkansas standards and *Reading Foundations* follows.

Foundational Reading

Phonics Decoding (Word Reading)

Arkansas Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
5.FR.1.PD Decode words, using knowledge of Greek combining forms and connectives.	Grade 5, Lessons 1–9, 11, 16, 23–38, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49–56, 59–74, 81, 83, 85–96, 99–114, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153

Foundational Reading

Phonics Encoding (Word Writing)

Arkansas Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
5.FR.2.PE Encode words, using knowledge of Greek combining forms with the use of connectives as needed.	<i>Reading Foundations</i> partially addresses this standard; the program does not explicitly address connectives. Grade 5, Lessons 5–7, 9, 10, 12–15, 23–25, 27, 28, 30, 34, 38, 41, 42, 44–46, 48–50, 52, 54, 56, 60, 64, 66–68, 70, 72, 74, 81, 82, 84, 86, 87, 90, 92–94, 96, 100, 102–104, 106–108, 110, 112, 114, 133, 139, 143, 147

Foundational Reading

Handwriting

Arkansas Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
5.FR.3.H Write fluently and legibly in cursive, using correctly formed letters with appropriate slant, spacing, and line awareness with increasing stamina.	<i>Reading Foundations</i> partially covers this standard; the program does not explicitly address writing stamina. Grade 5, Lessons 10, 12–15, 42, 44, 46, 48, 82, 84

Foundational Reading

Fluency

Arkansas Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
5.FR.4.F Orally read texts with accuracy, automaticity, and expression, at an appropriate rate to support comprehension, self-correcting as necessary.	Grade 5, Lessons 8, 11, 16, 26, 29, 33, 37, 43, 47, 51, 55, 61, 65, 69, 73, 83, 88, 91, 95, 101, 105, 109, 113, 127, 131, 135, 141, 145, 149, 153