

Iowa Academic Standards for English Language Arts (2024)

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

Reading and Writing: Foundational Skills

Print Concepts

Iowa Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
RF.1.1 Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print. (DOK 1)	Grade 1, Lessons 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 21, 24, 27, 31, 34, 37, 41, 44, 47, 51, 54, 57, 61, 64, 67, 71, 74, 77, 81, 84, 87, 91, 94, 97, 101, 104, 107, 111, 114, 117, 121, 124, 127, 131, 134, 137, 141, 144, 147, 151, 152, 154, 155, 157
RF.1.1.a Recognize the distinguishing features of a sentence (e.g., first word, capitalization, ending punctuation).	Grade 1, Lessons 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 21, 24, 27, 31, 34, 37, 41, 44, 47, 51, 54, 57, 61, 64, 67, 71, 74, 77, 81, 84, 87, 91, 94, 97, 101, 104, 107, 111, 114, 117, 121, 124, 127, 131, 134, 137, 141, 144, 147, 151, 152, 154, 155, 157

Reading and Writing: Foundational Skills

Phonemic Awareness

Iowa Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
RF.1.2 Demonstrate the ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words. (DOK 1,2)	Grade 1, Lessons 2–157
RF.1.2.a Distinguish long from short vowel phonemes (sounds) in single-syllable words.	Grade 1, Lessons 19, 39, 59, 79, 99, 113, 119, 139
RF.1.2.b Orally produce single-syllable words by blending phonemes (sounds), including consonant blends.	Grade 1, Lessons 2, 4–17, 20–27, 29–37, 40–47, 49–57, 60–67, 69–77, 80–87, 89–97, 100–107, 109–117, 120–127, 129–137, 140–147, 149–157

Iowa Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
RF.1.2.c Isolate and pronounce initial, medial vowel, and final phonemes (sounds) in spoken single-syllable words.	Grade 1, Lessons 3, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 20, 23, 26, 29, 30, 33, 36, 40, 43, 46, 49, 50, 53, 56, 60, 63, 66, 69, 70, 73, 76, 80, 83, 86, 89, 90, 93, 96, 100, 106, 109, 110, 116, 120, 123, 126, 129, 130, 133, 136, 140, 143, 146, 149
RF.1.2.d Segment spoken single-syllable words into their complete sequence of individual phonemes (sounds).	Grade 1, Lessons 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 48, 50, 52, 53, 55, 56, 58, 60, 62, 63, 65, 66, 68, 70, 72, 75, 76, 78, 80, 82, 83, 85, 86, 88, 90, 92, 93, 95, 96, 98, 100, 102–105, 108, 112, 115, 118, 122, 123, 125, 126, 128, 130, 132, 133, 135, 136, 138, 140, 142, 143, 145, 148

Reading and Writing: Foundational Skills

Phonics and Word Recognition

Iowa Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
RF.1.3 Know and apply grade-level phonics, which includes word analysis skills to support decoding and encoding words. (DOK 1,2)	Grade 1, Lessons 1, 2, 4–117, 119–158
RF.1.3.a Decode and encode one-syllable words with common consonant digraphs.	<i>Reading Foundations</i> gives further opportunities for practice after this concept's introduction in lessons 36–38, 40–42, 43–45, 46–48, 50–52.
RF.1.3.b Decode and encode regularly spelled one-syllable words with closed syllables and consonant blends.	<i>Reading Foundations</i> gives further opportunities for practice after this concept's introduction in lessons 26–28, 30–32, 33–35.
RF.1.3.c Decode and encode regularly spelled one-syllable words with final-e (VCe) patterns. Decode regularly spelled one-syllable words with common vowel team patterns that represent long vowel sounds.	<i>Reading Foundations</i> gives further opportunities for practice after these concepts' introductions in lessons 56–58, 60–62, 76–78, 80–82, 83–85, 86–88.

Iowa Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
RF.1.3.d Use knowledge that every syllable must have a vowel sound to determine the number of syllables in a printed word.	Grade 1, Lessons 103, 104, 106, 110–117, 120–122, 143
RF.1.3.e Decode two-syllable words following basic patterns by breaking the words into syllables (may include closed and open syllables).	Grade 1, Lessons 22, 25, 31, 32, 42, 52, 55, 61, 62, 64–67, 70–75, 77, 80–82, 84, 85, 87, 91, 92, 94, 95, 97, 100–107, 110–117, 120–122, 124–127, 131–137, 140–147, 150–158
RF.1.3.f With prompting and support, decode and encode words with inflectional suffixes (e.g., -ed, -ing, -s/es, -er).	<i>Reading Foundations</i> gives further opportunities for practice after this concept's introduction in lessons 63–65, 66–68, 70–72, 73–75.
RF.1.3.g Read grade-appropriate high frequency words with accuracy and automaticity.	Grade 1, Lessons 1, 2, 4–117, 119–158

Reading and Writing: Foundational Skills

Fluency

Iowa Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
RF.1.4 Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension. (DOK 1,2)	Grade 1, Lessons 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, 61, 62, 64, 65, 67, 71, 72, 74, 75, 77, 81, 82, 84, 85, 87, 91, 92, 94, 95, 97, 101, 102, 104, 105, 107, 111, 112, 114, 115, 117, 121, 122, 124, 125, 127, 131, 132, 134, 135, 137, 141, 142, 144, 145, 147, 151, 152, 154, 155, 157
RF.1.4.a Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.	Grade 1, Lessons 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, 61, 62, 64, 65, 67, 71, 72, 74, 75, 77, 81, 82, 84, 85, 87, 91, 92, 94, 95, 97, 101, 102, 104, 105, 107, 111, 112, 114, 115, 117, 121, 122, 124, 125, 127, 131, 132, 134, 135, 137, 141, 142, 144, 145, 147, 151, 152, 154, 155, 157

Iowa Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
RF.1.4.b Use decoding skills to self-correct word recognition, rereading as necessary.	<i>Reading Foundations</i> gives further opportunities for practice after this concept's introduction in lesson 82.
RF.1.4.c Read grade-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings.	Grade 1, Lessons 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, 61, 62, 64, 65, 67, 71, 72, 74, 75, 77, 81, 82, 84, 85, 87, 91, 92, 94, 95, 97, 101, 102, 104, 105, 107, 111, 112, 114, 115, 117, 121, 122, 124, 125, 127, 131, 132, 134, 135, 137, 141, 142, 144, 145, 147, 151, 152, 154, 155, 157

Reading and Writing: Foundational Skills

Writing Foundations

Iowa Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
WF.1.1 Print independently and legibly for a variety of tasks and purposes. (DOK 1)	Grade 1, Lessons 3–5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 40, 41, 43, 44, 46, 47, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56, 57, 60, 61, 63, 64, 66, 67, 70, 71, 73, 74, 76, 77, 80, 81, 83, 84, 86, 87, 90, 91, 93, 94, 96, 97, 100, 101, 103, 104, 106, 107, 110, 111, 113, 114, 116, 117, 120, 121, 123, 124, 126, 127, 130, 131, 133, 134, 136, 137, 140, 141, 143, 144, 146, 147, 151, 154, 157
WF.1.1.a Form upper and lowercase manuscript letters and numerals correctly with proportion, line awareness, and spacing (between words and letters).	<i>Reading Foundations</i> partially addresses this standard; the program does not explicitly address numeral formation. Grade 1, Lessons 3–5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 40, 41, 43, 44, 46, 47, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56, 57, 60, 61, 63, 64, 66, 67, 70, 71, 73, 74, 76, 77, 80, 81, 83, 84, 86, 87, 90, 91, 93, 94, 96, 97, 100, 101, 103, 104, 106, 107, 110, 111, 113, 114, 116, 117, 120, 121, 123, 124, 126, 127, 130, 131, 133, 134, 136, 137, 140, 141, 143, 144, 146, 147, 151, 154, 157
WF.1.1.b Produce manuscript writing with accuracy and automaticity.	<i>Reading Foundations</i> partially addresses this standard; the program does not explicitly address automaticity of manuscript writing.

Iowa Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
	Grade 1, Lessons 3–5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 40, 41, 43, 44, 46, 47, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56, 57, 60, 61, 63, 64, 66, 67, 70, 71, 73, 74, 76, 77, 80, 81, 83, 84, 86, 87, 90, 91, 93, 94, 96, 97, 100, 101, 103, 104, 106, 107, 110, 111, 113, 114, 116, 117, 120, 121, 123, 124, 126, 127, 130, 131, 133, 134, 136, 137, 140, 141, 143, 144, 146, 147, 151, 154, 157