

Maryland College and Career Ready (MCCRS) Standards for English Language Arts (2025)

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

Reading Foundations

Maryland Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
RF1 Demonstrate understanding of basic sentence structure.	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
RF1.a Identify the distinguishing features of a sentence.	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
RF2 Demonstrate understanding of sounds (phonemes), and the ability to blend, segment, and manipulate them.	Grade 1, Lessons 2, 4–157
RF2.a Distinguish between sounds (phonemes) using knowledge of place and manner of articulation.	<i>Reading Foundations</i> does not address this standard.
RF2.b Distinguish long from short vowel sounds in single syllable words.	Grade 1, Lessons 19, 39, 59, 79, 99, 113, 119, 139
RF2.c Orally produce (say) single-syllable words by blending phonemes (sounds).	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

RF2.d Segment spoken single-syllable words into their complete sequence of individual sounds (phonemes).	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
RF2.e Manipulate phonemes in spoken words by adding, deleting, and substituting sounds (phonemes).	Grade 1, Lessons 26, 29, 30, 40, 46, 49, 56, 66, 69, 76, 89, 96, 106, 109, 126, 129, 146, 149
RF3 Know and apply phonics and word analysis skills in decoding and encoding words.	Grade 1, Lessons 1–158
RF3.a Demonstrate knowledge of the alphabetic principle.	Grade 1, Lessons 1–158
RF3.b Form/print all upper and lowercase letters correctly, using a common path of movement.	Grade 1, Lessons 3, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17
RF3.c Know and apply phonics skills to decode and encode one-syllable words.	Grade 1, Lessons 1, 2, 4–18, 20–77, 79–117, 119–127, 130–137, 140–147, 150–158
RF3.d Read high-frequency words by sight.	Grade 1, Lessons 1, 2, 4–117, 119–158
RF3.e Decode and encode words that are minimal pairs.	Grade 1, Lessons 26, 30, 40, 46, 56, 93, 96, 123, 133, 143

RF3.f Decode and encode words with the most common inflectional suffixes.	Grade 1, Lessons 4–17, 19–27, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 39, 42, 44–47, 50–55, 57, 59–77, 79–97, 100–105, 107, 110–112, 114, 115, 117, 120–127, 130–137, 140–158
RF3.g Recognize that every syllable must have a vowel sound.	Grade 1, Lessons 103, 104, 106, 110–117, 120–122, 143
RF3.h Decode two-syllable words with known letter-sound correspondences (napkin, cupcake, solo).	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
RF3.i Know and apply spelling rules to encode words with increased accuracy.	Grade 1, Lessons 4, 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
RF4 Read grade-appropriate texts with sufficient accuracy, rate, and prosody to support comprehension.	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
RF4.a Engage in a variety of experiences with texts in order to develop an understanding of fluent reading.	Grade 1, Lessons 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
RF4.b Read grade-appropriate text with developing fluency in order to support comprehension.	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

RF4.c While reading, use context to confirm accuracy or self-correct word recognition errors, rereading as necessary.	Grade 1, Lessons 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
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