

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>
RF3 Know and apply phonics and word analysis skills in reading (decoding) and writing (encoding) words.	Grade 4, Lessons 1–16, 23–38, 41–56, 59–74, 81–96, 99–114, 121–136, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153
RF3.a Know and apply phonics skills to read (decode) and write (encode) words.	Grade 4, Lessons 1–16, 23–38, 41–56, 59–74, 81–96, 99–114, 121–136, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153
RF3.b Read (decode) and write (encode) multi-syllable words.	Grade 4, Lessons 1–16, 23–38, 41–56, 59–74, 81–96, 99–114, 121–136, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153
RF3.c Read (decode) and write (encode) words with prefixes and derivational suffixes.	Grade 4, Lessons 1–16, 23–38, 41–56, 59–74, 81–96, 99–114, 121–136, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153
RF3.d Read (decode) and write (encode) words containing Greek combining forms.	Grade 4, Lessons 71–74, 107–110, 111–114
RF3.e When appropriate, consider the etymology (word origin) of unknown words to support reading (decoding) and writing (encoding).	<i>Reading Foundations</i> does not address this standard.

RF3.f Use knowledge of spelling rules, syllable types, morphology, and etymology to write (encode) words with accuracy and automaticity.	<i>Reading Foundations</i> partially addresses this standard; the program does not explicitly address using etymology as an encoding strategy. 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
RF4 Read grade-appropriate texts with sufficient accuracy, rate, and prosody 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
RF4.a Engage in a variety of experiences with texts in order to refine understanding of fluent reading.	This standard is addressed in <i>Language Arts</i>.
RF4.b Read a variety of grade-appropriate text with fluency in order 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>Language Arts</i> addresses a variety of grade-appropriate texts in grade 4.
RF4.c While reading, use context to confirm accuracy or self-correct word recognition errors, rereading as necessary.	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