

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 Reading Foundations
L2.e Produce handwriting that is legible to the audience.	Kindergarten, Lessons 3–12, 15–20, 23–28, 32–36, 39–44, 47–52, 55–60, 63–68, 71–74, 76–81, 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, 143, 147, 150, 153, 157
RF1 Demonstrate understanding of the organization of print and knowledge of letters.	Kindergarten, Lessons 1, 2, 8–87, 90–97, 100–107, 110–117, 120–127, 130–137, 140–147, 150–157
RF1.a Demonstrate knowledge that words are read from left to right, top to bottom, and page by page.	Kindergarten, Lessons 1, 2, 9–13, 15–21, 23–29, 31–37, 39–45, 47–53, 55–61, 63–69, 71–74, 76–78, 80–87, 90–97, 100–107, 110–117, 120–127, 130–137, 140–147, 150–157
RF1.b Recognize that spoken words are represented in written language by specific sequences of letters.	Kindergarten, Lessons 1, 2, 9–12, 15–20, 23–29, 31–37, 39–45, 47–53, 55–61, 63–69, 71–74, 76–78, 80–87, 90–97, 100–107, 110–117, 120–127, 130–137, 140–147, 150–157
RF1.c Understand that words are separated by spaces in print.	Kindergarten, Lessons 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 32, 34, 36, 37, 40, 42, 44, 45, 48, 50, 52, 53, 56, 58, 60, 61, 64, 66, 68, 69, 72, 74, 76–78, 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, 140, 141, 143, 144, 147, 150, 151, 153, 154, 157
RF1.d Recognize and name all upper and lowercase letters.	Kindergarten, Lessons 8, 9, 11, 13–15, 17, 19, 21–23, 25, 27, 29–31, 33, 35, 37–39, 41, 43, 45–47, 49, 51, 53–55, 57, 59, 61–63, 65, 67, 69–71, 73, 75–79, 110
RF2	Kindergarten, Lessons 1–44, 47–52, 55–75, 80–113, 115–118, 120–128, 130–133, 135–137, 141, 142, 144–146, 151, 152, 154–156

Maryland Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
Demonstrate understanding of rhyming words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).	
RF2.a Recognize and produce rhyming words.	Kindergarten, Lessons 4, 5
RF2.b Count, pronounce, blend, and segment syllables in spoken words.	Kindergarten, Lessons 1–3, 113, 130, 133
RF2.c Distinguish between sounds (phonemes) using knowledge of place and manner of articulation.	<i>Reading Foundations</i> does not address this standard.
RF2.d Blend and segment onsets and rimes of single-syllable spoken words.	Kindergarten, Lessons 6–14
RF2.e Isolate and pronounce the initial, medial vowel, and final sounds (phonemes) in three phoneme (consonant-vowel-consonant, or CVC) words.* (This does not include CVCs ending with /l/, /r/, or /x/.)	Kindergarten, Lessons 6–12, 15–44, 47–52, 55–75, 80–113, 115–118, 120–128, 130–133, 135–137, 141, 142, 144–146, 151, 152, 154–156
RF2.f Orally blend and segment individual phonemes in two; three; and four-phoneme words.	Kindergarten, Lessons 39–75, 81–82, 84–85, 87–89, 91–92, 94–95, 97–99, 101, 104–105, 107–109, 111–112, 114–115, 117–118, 121–122, 124–125, 127–128, 131–132, 134–135, 138
RF3 Know and apply phonics and word analysis skills in decoding and encoding words.	Kindergarten, Lessons 6–148, 150–158

Maryland Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
RF3.a Demonstrate knowledge of the alphabetic principle.	Kindergarten, Lessons 6–87, 89–97, 99–107, 109–117, 119–127, 129–137, 139–147, 150–157
RF3.b Form/print all upper and lowercase letters correctly, using a common path of movement.	Kindergarten, Lessons 6–7, 9, 11, 15, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 33, 35, 39, 41, 43, 47, 49, 51, 55, 57, 59, 63, 65, 67, 71, 73
RF3.c Associate the long and short sounds with common spellings (graphemes) for the five major vowels.	Kindergarten, Lessons 9–12, 14–20, 22–87, 89–97, 99–107, 109–112, 114–117, 119–127, 129–137, 139–148, 150–158
RF3.d Know and apply phonics skills in order to decode and encode one-syllable words.	Kindergarten, Lessons 9–12, 14–20, 22–87, 89–97, 99–107, 109–117, 119–127, 129–137, 139–148, 150–158
RF3.e Read common high-frequency words by sight.	Kindergarten, Lessons 10, 12–14, 16, 18, 20–22, 24, 26, 28–30, 32, 34, 36–38, 40, 42, 44–46, 48, 50, 52–54, 56, 58, 60–62, 64, 66, 68–70, 72, 74–148, 150–158
RF3.f Decode and encode words that are minimal pairs.	Kindergarten, Lessons 83, 111, 120, 126, 136
RF3.g Decode words with the most common inflectional suffixes.	Kindergarten, Lessons 36, 37, 40, 45, 48, 50, 53, 61, 64–66, 68, 69, 71–74, 76, 78, 83–85, 87, 91, 95–97, 101, 102, 105, 112–117, 120–124, 127, 130–137, 140–147, 150–157
RF4 Read grade-appropriate texts with sufficient accuracy to support comprehension.	Kindergarten, Lessons 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 32, 34, 36, 37, 40, 42, 44, 45, 48, 50, 52, 53, 56, 58, 60, 61, 64, 66, 68, 69, 72, 74, 76–78, 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, 140, 141, 143, 144, 147, 150, 151, 153, 154, 157

Maryland Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
RF4.a Engage in a variety of experiences with texts in order to develop an understanding of fluent reading.	Kindergarten, Lessons 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 26, 28–29, 32, 34, 36–37, 40, 42, 44–45, 48, 50, 52–53, 56, 58, 60–61, 64, 66, 68–69, 72, 74, 76–78, 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, 140–141, 143–144, 147, 150–151, 153–154, 157
RF4.b Demonstrate accuracy and automaticity with naming letters and producing their corresponding sounds.	Kindergarten, Lessons 6–7, 9–79, 83–84, 86–87, 89–91, 93–94, 96–97, 99–101, 103–104, 106–107, 109, 113–114, 116–117, 119–121, 123–124, 126–127, 129–131, 133–134, 136–137, 139
RF4.c Read grade-appropriate text with developing fluency in order to support comprehension.	Kindergarten, Lessons 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 32, 34, 36, 37, 40, 42, 44, 45, 48, 50, 52, 53, 56, 58, 60, 61, 64, 66, 68, 69, 72, 74, 76–78, 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, 140, 141, 143, 144, 147, 150, 151, 153, 154, 157