

Minnesota Academic Standards in English Language Arts (2020)

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

Reading

R1 Foundations of Reading: Demonstrate knowledge of oral language, phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics and morphology to read accurately and fluently.

Minnesota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
2.1.1.0 Benchmarks end in grade 1.	
2.1.1.1 Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds (phonemes): Identify, blend, segment and manipulate syllables in multi-syllabic words and sounds in five-phoneme words, including consonant blends.	<i>Reading Foundations</i> gives further opportunities for practice after this concept's introduction in lesson 15.
2.1.1.2 Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words:	Grade 2, Lessons 2–123, 126–133, 136–146, 149–156
2.1.1.2.a Know the spelling-sound correspondences for the common vowel graphemes.	Grade 2, Lessons 2–4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23–25, 28, 30–34, 41–43, 46–55, 57–64, 66–75, 77–103, 105–123, 126–133, 136–146, 149–156
2.1.1.2.b Decode multi-syllabic words that include prefixes, suffixes and vowel digraphs.	Grade 2, Lessons 2, 3, 6–13, 16–18, 20–34, 36–43, 45–50, 52, 53, 55–63, 65–73, 76–83, 86–93, 97–103, 106–113, 115–123, 126–133, 136–146, 149–156
2.1.1.2.c Read high-frequency words, in and out of context, demonstrating both accuracy and automaticity.	Grade 2, Lessons 2–117, 119, 120, 122, 123, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 133, 136, 137, 139, 140, 142–146, 149, 150, 152, 153, 155, 156

Minnesota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
2.1.1.3 Read grade-level texts fluently, with sufficient accuracy, rate and expression to support comprehension.	Grade 2, Lessons 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 37, 38, 40, 41, 43, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53, 57, 58, 60, 61, 63, 67, 68, 70, 71, 73, 77, 78, 80, 81, 83, 87, 88, 90, 91, 93, 97, 98, 100, 101, 103, 107, 108, 110, 111, 113, 117, 120, 123, 127, 130, 133, 137, 140, 143, 146, 150, 153, 156

Writing

W1 Foundations of Writing: Demonstrate knowledge of oral language, orthography, grammar and mechanics to express ideas in writing.

Minnesota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
2.2.1.0 Benchmarks end in grade 1.	
2.2.1.1 Use correct punctuation (end punctuation), spelling (high frequency words), and capitalization (first word in sentence and proper nouns) authentically in writing.	Grade 2, Lessons 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 23, 27, 30, 33, 37, 40, 43, 47, 50, 52, 53, 57, 60, 63, 67, 70, 73, 77, 80, 83, 87, 90, 93, 96, 97, 100, 103, 107, 110, 113
2.2.1.2 Apply spelling patterns and rules to spell words with consonant and vowel digraphs and diphthongs, six syllable types, and inflectional suffixes authentically in writing.	Grade 2, Lessons 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 56, 57, 59, 60, 62, 63, 66, 67, 69, 70, 72, 73, 76, 77, 79, 80, 82, 83, 86, 87, 89, 90, 92, 93, 96, 97, 99, 100, 102, 103, 106, 107, 109, 110, 112, 113
2.2.1.3 Use nouns (common, proper, possessive and plural), verbs (regular and irregular), and frequently occurring adjectives, conjunctions and prepositions in simple sentences authentically in writing.	This standard is addressed in <i>Language Arts</i> .