Montana English Language Arts and Literacy Content Standards (2027)

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

Reading - Fluency

Montana Standards	Aligned Components of *Reading Foundations*
MT.1.RFL.1 Read grade-appropriate texts with sufficient accuracy, rate, and expression 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
MT.1.RFL.2 Read common high-frequency words with accuracy and automaticity.	Grade 1, Lessons 5–6, 8–9, 11–12, 14–15, 21–22, 24–25, 31–32, 34–35, 41–42, 44–45, 47, 54–55, 57–58, 61–65, 67–68, 71–72, 74–75, 81–82, 84–85, 87–88, 91–92, 97–98, 101–102, 104–105, 107–108, 111–112, 114–115, 117–118, 121–122, 124–125, 127–128, 131–132, 134–135, 137–138, 141–142, 144–145, 147–148, 154–155.

Reading - Foundational

Montana Standards	Aligned Components of *Reading Foundations*
MT.1.RFO.1 Understand Phonemic Awareness by:	Grade 1, Lessons 2, 4–159
MT.1.RFO.1.a distinguishing long from short vowel sounds in spoken single-syllable words;	Grade 1, Lessons 19, 39, 59, 79, 99, 113, 119, 139, 159
MT.1.RFO.1.b orally blending phonemes in complex single-syllable words;	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

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MT.1.RFO.1.c orally segmenting phonemes in complex single-syllable words.	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, 150, 152, 153, 155, 156, 158
MT.1.RFO.2 Demonstrate Decoding Skills by:	Grade 1, Lessons 1, 2, 4–18, 20–117, 119–127, 130–137, 139–148, 150–157
MT.1.RFO.2.a demonstrating knowledge of phoneme-grapheme relationships between consonant digraph and trigraph graphemes and their most commonly occurring phonemes;	Grade 1, Lessons 36–55.
MT.1.RFO.2.b demonstrating knowledge of phoneme-grapheme relationships between common vowel graphemes and long vowel phonemes;	Grade 1, Lessons 9, 12, 15, 17, 21–27, 31, 32, 34, 35, 42–44, 51, 52, 54–58, 60–69, 71, 74–97, 99–111, 113–117, 119–124, 126, 127, 130–135, 137, 139–148, 150–152, 154–157
MT.1.RFO.2.c demonstrating knowledge of phoneme-grapheme relationships between common r-controlled vowel graphemes and phonemes;	Grade 1, Lessons 93–102.
MT.1.RFO.2.d decoding regularly spelled one-syllable words;	Grade 1, Lessons 1, 2, 4–18, 20–77, 79–117, 119–127, 130–137, 140–147, 150–157
MT.1.RFO.2.e decoding regularly spelled two-syllable words comprised of closed syllables following basic patterns, by breaking the words into 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, 150–157
MT.1.RFO.2.f decoding words with inflectional endings; and	Grade 1, Lessons 4–17, 20–27, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 42, 44–47, 50–55, 57, 60–67, 70–77, 80–87, 90–97, 100–105, 107, 110–112, 114, 115, 117, 120–127, 130–137, 140–142, 144–147, 150–157

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MT.1.RFO.2.g reading decodable texts accurately and with automaticity;	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.
MT.1.RFO.3 Demonstrate Encoding Skills by:	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, 150, 151, 153, 154, 156, 157
MT.1.RFO.3.a encoding one-syllable words that follow regular spelling patterns;	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, 150, 151, 153, 154, 156, 157
MT.1.RFO.3.b encoding two-syllable words comprised of closed syllables that follow regular spelling patterns;	Grade 1, Lessons 106–107, 110–111.
MT.1.RFO.3.c encoding words with inflectional endings, focusing on words that retain their root spelling when an inflectional ending is added; and	Grade 1, Lessons 63, 66, 70, 73.
MT.1.RFO.3.d printing upper and lowercase letters with automaticity.	Grade 1, Lessons 5, 8, 11, 14, 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

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