

Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for English Language Arts (2021)

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

Foundations of Reading

Concepts of Print | Demonstrate knowledge of the organization and basic concepts of print.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
LA.2.F.1 Demonstrate knowledge of the organization and basic concepts of print.	This standard is addressed in Language Arts.
LA.2.F.1a Recognize the distinguishing features of a paragraph including that multiple sentences may be used to form a paragraph and the author may indent or skip a line to signal a new paragraph.	This standard is addressed in Language Arts.

Foundations of Reading

Phonological Awareness | Demonstrate phonological awareness through oral activities.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
LA.2.F.2 Demonstrate understanding of advanced phonemic awareness skills in spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).	Grade 2, Lessons 6–7, 16, 20, 42, 83, 99, 102, 126, 140, 143, 149, 155
LA.2.F.2a Identify, segment, and blend phonemes in single syllable spoken five and six phoneme words including words with blends, digraphs, and trigraphs.	Grade 2, Lessons 6, 7, 20
LA.2.F.2b Substitute sounds in words with five or more phonemes.	Grade 2, Lessons 6, 16, 42, 99, 102, 149, 155
LA.2.F.2c Delete initial and final phonemes in words including words with blends.	Grade 2, Lessons 83, 126, 140, 143

Foundations of Reading

Phonics and Word Analysis | Demonstrate phonetic and word analysis knowledge and apply decoding skills to isolated words and in connected text.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
LA.2.F.3 Know and apply phonics and word analysis skills in decoding and encoding (spelling) words.	Grade 2, Lessons 2–4, 6–17, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27–33, 35–38, 40–43, 45–75, 77–103, 105–159
LA.2.F.3a Decode words with variable vowel teams and vowel diphthongs.	Grade 2, Lessons 2–4, 6–17, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27–33, 35, 37, 38, 40–43, 45–75, 77–103, 105–159

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
LA.2.F.3b Decode regularly spelled two-syllable words with long vowels.	Grade 2, Lessons 3, 16, 31, 36, 38, 41–43, 45–47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 55–63, 65–67, 69–73, 77–79, 81–83, 88, 90–93, 97–100, 102, 103, 106–113, 115–123, 126–133, 136–138, 140–146, 149–156
LA.2.F.3c Decode words with open and closed syllables and consonant -le.	Grade 2, Lessons 59–61, 66–68.
LA.2.F.3d Decode words with common Anglo roots and suffixes.	Grade 2, Lessons 26–31, 42–44, 99–104, 155–157 <i>Reading Foundations</i> addresses decoding words with common Anglo roots in grades 3, 4, and 5. Grade 3, Lessons 21–24, 35–38, 57–60, 65–68, 92–95, 104–107, 126–129, 144–147 Grade 4, Lessons 59–66, 89–92 Grade 5, Lessons 67–70, 139–142, 147–150
LA.2.F.3e Decode words with silent letter combinations.	Grade 2, Lessons 112–114.

Foundations of Reading

Fluency | Read grade-level texts with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
LA.2.F.4 Develop accuracy, phrasing, and expression/prosody while reading a variety of grade-level texts to support comprehension.	Grade 2, Lessons 1–159
LA.2.F.4a Read a variety of texts accurately using appropriate rate, expression, and intonation to reflect meaning.	Grade 2, Lessons 21, 48, 58, 71, 91, 101, 111, 131
LA.2.F.4b Read grade level high-frequency words with automaticity and accuracy (e.g., Fry or Dolch words or those included in instructional materials).	Grade 2, Lessons 1–159

Writing

Foundations of Writing | Apply handwriting skills to communicate ideas and information.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
LA.2.FW.1 Demonstrate and apply handwriting skills.	Grade 2, Lessons 4, 7, 10, 13, 17, 20, 23, 27, 30, 33, 37, 40, 43, 47, 50, 53, 57, 60, 63, 67, 70, 73, 77, 80, 83, 87, 90, 93, 97, 100, 103, 107, 110, 113, 117, 120, 123, 127, 130, 133, 137, 140, 143, 146, 150, 153, 156
LA.2.FW.1a Write legibly using correct formation of letters with automaticity and proper spacing between words.	Grade 2, Lessons 4, 7, 10, 13, 17, 20, 23, 27, 30, 33, 37, 40, 43, 47, 50, 53, 57, 60, 63, 67, 70, 73, 77, 80, 83, 87, 90, 93, 97, 100, 103, 107, 110, 113, 117, 120, 123, 127, 130, 133, 137, 140, 143, 146, 150, 153, 156
LA.2.FW.2 Demonstrate sound-letter concepts when writing.	Grade 2, Lessons 1–159

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
LA.2.FW.2a Write common graphemes (letters or letter groups) for each phoneme.	Grade 2, Lessons 1–159