

South Dakota English Language Arts Standards (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 South Dakota standards while benefiting from the coherent, research-based design of *Arts & Letters*. A detailed alignment analysis between South Dakota standards and *Reading Foundations* follows.

Language

South Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
3.L.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.	Grade 3, Lessons 4–24, 26, 27, 30–38, 40–44, 46–48, 50, 51, 53–58, 60–68, 70, 71, 73–77, 79–87, 89–97, 99–101, 103–107, 110, 111, 113–127, 129–131, 133, 134, 136–138, 140, 141, 143–151, 153–157
3.L.2.a Write legibly in print and cursive, using appropriate spacing and margins.	Grade 3, Lessons 6–20, 44, 46, 48, 50, 83, 85, 87, 89, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 148 <i>Reading Foundations</i> addresses word spacing in grade 1; the program does not explicitly address margins. Grade 1, Lessons 4–5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 21, 23–24, 26–27, 30–31, 33–34, 36–37, 40–41, 43–44, 47, 51, 53–54, 56–57, 60–61, 63–64, 66–67, 70–71, 73–74, 76–77, 80–81, 84, 86–87, 90–91, 93–94, 96–97, 100–101, 103–104, 106–107, 110–111, 113–114, 116–117, 120–121, 124, 126–127, 130–131, 133–134, 136–137, 140–141, 143–144, 146–147, 150–151, 153–154, 156–157
3.L.2.f Use high-frequency words and spelling patterns to spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting reference materials as needed.	Grade 3, Lessons 21–23, 31, 32, 34–36, 38, 40, 42–44, 46–48, 50, 53–55, 57, 58, 60–62, 64–66, 68, 74, 75, 77, 79, 81–83, 85–87, 89, 92, 93, 95–97, 99–101, 103–105, 107, 114, 115, 117–119, 121–123, 125–127, 129–131, 133, 136–138, 140, 141, 143–145, 147–149, 151, 153, 155

Reading Foundational Skills

South Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
3.RF.3 Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding and encoding words.	Grade 3, Lessons 21–24, 31–50, 53–68, 74–89, 92, 93, 95–107, 114–133, 136–155

South Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
3.RF.3.a Decode and encode advanced vowel patterns, including vowel digraphs and diphthongs.	Grade 3, Lessons 24, 33, 37, 41, 45–46, 49–50, 56, 59, 63, 67, 76, 80, 84–85, 88–89, 94, 98, 102, 106, 116–117, 120–121, 124–125, 128, 132, 139, 142, 146, 150, 154
3.RF.3.b Identify and understand the meanings of common prefixes and derivational suffixes.	Grade 3, Lessons 21–23, 31, 32, 34–36, 38–40, 42, 47, 57, 58, 60–62, 64–66, 68, 74, 75, 77–79, 81, 86, 92, 93, 95–97, 99–101, 103–105, 107, 114, 118, 122, 126, 127, 129–131, 133, 140, 141, 143–145, 147, 152, 153, 155
3.RF.3.c Recognize words with common Greek and Latin affixes to enhance vocabulary and word recognition skills.	Grade 3 Lessons 31–34, 57–68, 74–77, 96–99, 104–107, 130–133, 140–143
3.RF.3.d Apply knowledge of syllable division rules, morphemes, and phonics patterns to decode and encode multisyllabic words accurately.	Grade 3, Lessons 1–5.
3.RF.3.e Apply spelling patterns and rules (e.g., doubling consonants before adding -ed or -ing, dropping silent e when adding a suffix) to spell words accurately.	Grade 3, Lessons 21–23, 31, 32, 34–36, 38, 40, 42–44, 46–48, 50, 53–55, 57, 58, 60–62, 64–66, 68, 74, 75, 77, 79, 81–83, 85–87, 89, 92, 93, 95–97, 99–101, 103–105, 107, 114, 115, 117–119, 121–123, 125–127, 129–131, 133, 136–138, 140, 141, 143–145, 147–149, 151, 153, 155
3.RF.3.f Read and spell grade-appropriate high-frequency words.	Grade 3, Lessons 21, 23, 24, 31, 33, 37, 41, 43–50, 56, 59, 63, 67, 76, 80, 81, 84–86, 88, 89, 98, 102, 106, 116, 117, 120, 121, 124, 125, 128, 132, 136–139, 142, 146, 148, 150, 154
3.RF.4 Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.	Grade 3, Lessons 24, 33, 37, 41, 45, 49, 56, 59, 63, 67, 76, 80, 84, 88, 94, 98, 102, 106, 116, 120, 124, 128, 132, 139, 142, 146, 150, 154
3.RF.4.a Read grade-appropriate text with purpose and understanding.	Grade 3, Lessons 24, 33, 37, 41, 45, 49, 56, 59, 63, 67, 76, 80, 84, 88, 94, 98, 102, 106, 116, 120, 124, 128, 132, 139, 142, 146, 150, 154

South Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
3.RF.4.b Read grade-appropriate texts in a variety of genres with accuracy, appropriate rate, and prosody (stress, phrasing, intonation, and expression).	Grade 3, Lessons 24, 33, 37, 41, 45, 49, 56, 59, 63, 67, 76, 80, 84, 88, 94, 98, 102, 106, 116, 120, 124, 128, 132, 139, 142, 146, 150, 154 <i>Reading Foundations</i> addresses intonation and stress in grades 1 and 2. Grade 1, Lessons 9, 12, 15, 22, 25, 32, 35, 42, 45, 52, 55, 62, 65, 72, 75, 82, 85, 92, 95, 102, 105, 112, 115, 122, 125, 132, 135, 142, 145, 152, 155 Grade 2, Lessons 8, 11, 18, 21, 28, 31, 38, 41, 48, 51, 58, 61, 68, 71, 78, 81, 88, 91, 98, 101, 108, 111, 118, 121, 128, 131, 138, 141, 144, 151, 154 <i>Language Arts</i> addresses reading a variety of genres in Grade 3.
3.RF.4.c Self-monitor reading for correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.	Grade 3, Lessons 24, 33, 37, 41, 45, 49, 56, 59, 63, 67, 76, 80, 84, 88, 94, 98, 102, 106, 116, 120, 124, 128, 132, 139, 142, 146, 150, 154