

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>
4.L.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.	Grade 4, Lessons 4–8, 10–17, 20, 21, 23–28, 30–34, 36–38, 40–48, 50–54, 56, 57, 59–64, 66–68, 70–74, 76, 77, 80–94, 96, 97, 99–104, 106, 107, 109–114, 116, 117, 120–134, 136, 137, 139–144, 146–148, 150–154, 156, 157
4.L.2.a Write legibly and fluently in print and cursive using appropriate spacing and margins.	Grade 4, Lessons 13–15, 34, 42, 44, 46, 48, 82, 84, 86, 88, 121, 124 <i>Reading Foundations</i> addresses word spacing in grade 1 and cursive in grade 3; the program does not explicitly address margins. Grade 1, Lessons 4–5, 7–8, 10–11, 14, 16–17, 20–21, 23–24, 26–27, 30–31, 33–34, 36–37, 40–41, 43–44, 47, 50–51, 53–54, 56–57, 60–61, 63–64, 66–67, 70–71, 73–74, 76–77, 80–81, 83–84, 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 Grade 3, Lessons 6–20
4.L.2.e Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.	Grade 4, Lessons 5–7, 12, 15, 23–25, 27, 28, 30–32, 34, 36, 38, 41, 42, 44–46, 48, 50, 52–54, 56, 59, 60, 62–64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 81, 82, 84–86, 88–90, 92–94, 96, 99, 100, 102, 104, 106, 107, 109, 112, 114, 121, 122, 124–126, 128–130, 132–134, 136, 139, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 152, 154

Reading Foundational Skills

South Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
4.RF.3 Demonstrate proficiency in grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding and encoding words.	Grade 4, Lessons 1–16, 23–38, 41–56, 59–74, 81–96, 99–114, 121–136, 139–154
4.RF.3.a Identify and use common prefixes, suffixes, and root words to decode and encode words.	Grade 4, Lessons 1–16, 23–38, 41–56, 59–74, 81–96, 99–114, 121–136, 139–154
4.RF.3.b Recognize and use common Greek and Latin roots to determine word meanings and decode unfamiliar words.	Grade 4, Lessons 1–14, 16, 23–33, 35–38, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49–56, 59–74, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89–96, 99–114, 122, 123, 125–136, 139–154
4.RF.3.c Apply knowledge of syllable division rules, morphemes, and phonics patterns to decode and encode multisyllabic words accurately.	Grade 4, Lessons 1–4
4.RF.3.d Apply spelling patterns and rules to spell words accurately.	Grade 4, Lessons 5–7, 12, 15, 23–25, 27, 28, 30–32, 34, 36, 38, 41, 42, 44–46, 48, 50, 52–54, 56, 59, 60, 62–64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 81, 82, 84–86, 88–90, 92–94, 96, 99, 100, 102, 104, 106, 107, 109, 112, 114, 121, 122, 124–126, 128–130, 132–134, 136, 139, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 152, 154
4.RF.4 Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.	Grade 4, Lessons 8, 11, 16, 26, 29, 33, 37, 43, 47, 51, 55, 61, 65, 69, 73, 83, 87, 91, 95, 101, 105, 110, 113, 123, 127, 131, 135, 141, 145, 149, 153
4.RF.4.a Read grade-appropriate text with purpose and understanding.	Grade 4, Lessons 8, 11, 16, 26, 29, 33, 37, 43, 47, 51, 55, 61, 65, 69, 73, 83, 87, 91, 95, 101, 105, 110, 113, 123, 127, 131, 135, 141, 145, 149, 153

South Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Reading Foundations</i>
4.RF.4.b Read grade-appropriate texts in a variety of genres orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and prosody (stress, phrasing, intonation, and expression).	Grade 4, Lessons 8, 11, 16, 26, 29, 33, 37, 43, 47, 51, 55, 61, 65, 69, 73, 83, 87, 91, 95, 101, 105, 110, 113, 123, 127, 131, 135, 141, 145, 149, 153 <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 4.
4.RF.4.c Self-monitor reading for correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.	Grade 4, Lessons 8, 11, 16, 26, 29, 33, 37, 43, 47, 51, 55, 61, 65, 69, 73, 83, 87, 91, 95, 101, 105, 110, 113, 123, 127, 131, 135, 141, 145, 149, 153