



MasteryGuide™ English Language Arts

Assessment Specifications and Blueprints

English Language Arts Design

The English Language Arts (ELA) through-year assessment system uses a genre-based design where students are asked to read literary and informational passages and answer a series of items designed to measure key language and reading skills such as syntax, vocabulary, key ideas, author's craft, and making connections. Each reading item is coded to a CCSS standard and learning progression indicator (item specification) derived from a developmental cognitive theory of acquisition of reading skill that combines the core ideas of the CCSS and the work of Dr. Karin Hess (Hess, 2011). Items are also aligned to Webb's Depth of Knowledge and tagged with item descriptors detailing how the items measure the intended attributes within content strands as appropriate to an end-of-year test.

Each ELA testlet is designed to measure the most appropriate standards for the passage(s), typically covering between four to seven standards per passage or passage set. In addition, each testlet includes standalone items typically covering an additional three to five standards.

The ELA testlets are designed with increasing text and item complexity within grade-level margins, from readily accessible to moderately complex to highly complex text, reflecting students' anticipated learning across the school year. By the end of the year, students will have taken six reading testlets, for a total of 108 items, as well as a performance task focused on writing.

Standalone syntax and vocabulary items provide an opportunity to dig deeper into student progress over the course of the school year and determine at what level students most need support in order to demonstrate acquisition of skills. These standalone items focus on word meaning (vocabulary) and sentence-level meaning (syntax) and include a brief stimulus (a sentence or brief paragraph) within the item itself. Reading comprehension items focus on local or global attributes. Local attributes focus on paragraph-level meaning, while global attributes focus on whole-passage understanding and analysis of paired passages.

Additionally, students will complete a writing performance task testlet. For this testlet, students will revisit reading questions they have previously answered based on passages they have seen before in an earlier administration. These items are included to help elicit ideas and information students can use when writing their response to a prompt. The written responses should develop an idea and support the idea with evidence from the passage or passages.

Passages are selected based on several factors, including passage length (i.e., word count) and text complexity. The word count range centers on what the average student can read in five minutes at each grade level. Text complexity is determined by using two factors: quantitative

and qualitative measures. Lexile is used as the primary quantitative measure to help determine grade-level appropriateness. Passages are then reviewed for qualitative factors such as meaning or purpose, text structure, language features, and knowledge demands. The qualitative measures are very important as some passages cannot be measured quantitatively (e.g., poetry and drama) and others tend to fall either lower or higher in complexity than Lexile indicates (e.g., science text tends to fall higher based on domain-specific language, though definitions are often provided for the terms, and some literary pieces tend to fall lower if an author uses simpler language to express complex ideas). These factors are also used to sequence passages in increasing complexity and length throughout the school year. All passages are reviewed internally and by educator committees.

Items are developed by New Meridian's team of content, accessibility and fairness, and editorial experts. Representatives from state departments of education review the items, followed by a review conducted by a cadre of educators recruited by their state department.

Passage Specifications

Grade	Priority Focus Topics	Beginning of Year (Readily Accessible Text)	Middle of Year (Moderately Complex Text)	End of Year (Highly Complex Text)
3	What we learn from reading stories of the past (where people live, fables/ folktales/ myths, diverse voices, perspective)	Lexile range: 200–510 Word count ¹ : <415	Lexile range: 355–610 Word count: <460	Lexile range: 510–820 Word count: <535
4	Importance of communities and how they are formed (culture, food, helping others, medicine)	Lexile range: 540–775 Word count: <470	Lexile range: 657–876 Word count: <560	Lexile range: 775–1010 Word count: <615
5	How humans view and learn about nature (fables/ tales of the natural world, customs/ traditions, archeology)	Lexile range: 540–775 Word count: <605	Lexile range: 657–875 Word count: <635	Lexile range: 775–1010 Word count: <695
6	Costs and benefits of technology (people/ science that shaped today, inventions that may change the future, important inventions that changed history)	Lexile range: 725–995 Word count: <660	Lexile range: 880–1060 Word count: <700	Lexile range: 995–1185 Word count: <750

¹ Word counts are determined based on oral reading fluency data gathered and reported on by Hasbrouck and Tindal in 2006. See references for full citation.

Grade	Priority Focus Topics	Beginning of Year (Readily Accessible Text)	Middle of Year (Moderately Complex Text)	End of Year (Highly Complex Text)
7	Identity (What makes a person who they are? What inspires people? What influences people's education and career choices? How can people find their voice?)	Lexile range: 725–995 Word count: <640	Lexile range: 880–1060 Word count: <680	Lexile range: 995–1185 Word count: <750
8	Change (personal, historical, social – how people create change, how change causes conflicts and resolutions, what it means to be “grown up”)	Lexile range: 725–995 Word count: <665	Lexile range: 880–1060 Word count: <730	Lexile range: 995–1185 Word count: <755

Reading Testlet Specifications

Reading testlets are designed to adhere to the following specifications:

Number of questions per reading testlet	18
Interaction types	<p>Approximately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% choice (single- or multiple-select multiple choice) – All standalone items and many reading comprehension items are choice items. • 10% evidence-based selected response (EBSR) – This item type is only used on MOY and EOY testlets as it is a more complex item construct, requiring evidence to support a response. • 15% technology-enhanced (TEI) (summary gap match, inline choice, gap match, match) – This item type is used sparingly on BOY testlets and more regularly on MOY and EOY testlets.
Complexity (Webb's Depth of Knowledge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standalone items (Vocabulary, Syntax) – DOK 1 or 2 • Comprehension items (Reading Lit, Reading Info) – DOK 2 or 3
Score points per item	Most items are worth 1 point; however, EBSRs and some TEI and multiple-select items are worth 2 points due to their increased complexity and additional student interactions.
Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary – word or phrase-level meaning • Syntax – sentence-level meaning • Reading Comprehension – paragraph, whole, paired-text meaning <p>NOTE: Items assess the attribute and align to a CCSS standard.</p>

Writing Performance Task Testlet Specifications

Writing performance task testlets are designed to adhere to the following specifications:

Number of reading questions per performance task	5 (from previous administration – serving a pre-writing purpose, to elicit ideas and evidence students can use in their writing – not included in summative score)
Number of writing prompts per performance task	1
Writing interaction type	Constructed Response (CR)
Complexity Extended Response (Webb's Depth of Knowledge)	4
Score points per item	8
Area	Writing: Written Expression Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions

Regarding Scoring of Performance Tasks

The performance tasks administered in school years 2024-25 and 2025-26 were field tested in spring 2024 across various districts in Montana. The scoring vendor, Strategic Measurement and Evaluation, Inc. (SME), conducted range-finding in summer 2024. The range-finding committee met in Bozeman, MT, August 13–15, 2024. The committee was split into three grade bands: seven educators for grades 3–4, five educators for grades 5–6, and six educators for grades 7–8. The committees provided final scores and comments for all range-finding responses, and the committee-validated scores and comments formed the basis for the operational scoring training materials used to train professional scoring staff.

The hand-scoring process for the performance tasks matches the process and standards widely adopted by most state testing programs. Professional scoring staff with relevant degrees and experience are trained to score the performance tasks. Scorers are required to complete a comprehensive training program and prove they can accurately apply the scoring criteria. To qualify, scorers must demonstrate acceptable agreement to the true scores on the qualification sets. During the scoring window, a variety of quality assurance checks are built into the scoring process to monitor the reliability and consistency of scores. These include table leader read-behinds, double-blind scores, and validity responses.

MGA ELA Blueprints

Grade 3

Reading, Literary Testlet, Beginning of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vocabulary Acquisition and Use	RL.4, L.4, L.5	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Knowledge of Language	L.1, L.3	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Literary Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Key Ideas and DetailsCraft and StructureIntegration of Knowledge and Ideas	RL.2 – RL.7	6	2 to 3	6 to 10

Reading, Informational Testlet, Beginning of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vocabulary Acquisition and Use	RI.4, L.4, L.5	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Knowledge of Language	L.1, L.3	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Key Ideas and DetailsCraft and StructureIntegration of Knowledge and Ideas	RI.2 – RI.8	6	2 to 3	6 to 10

Reading, Literary Testlet, Middle of Year and End of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RL.4, L.4, L.5	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Literary Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RL.1 – RL.7, RL.9	10	2 to 3	10 to 16

Reading, Informational Testlet, Middle of Year and End of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RI.4, L.4, L.5	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RI.1 – RI.9	10	2 to 3	10 to 16

Writing, Performance Task, Middle of Year

Area	Dimension	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not reported 	RI.1 – RI.9	5	2 to 3	N/A
Writing: Written Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Expression – Organization Written Expression – Purpose / Development 	W.1 or W.2, W.4	1	3 to 4	6
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language and Conventions 	L.1 – L.3			2

Grade 4

Reading, Literary Testlet, Beginning of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RL.4, L.4, L.5	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Literary Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RL.1 – RL.6	6	2 to 3	6 to 10

Reading, Informational Testlet, Beginning of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RI.4, L.4, L.5	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RI.1 – RI.8	6	2 to 3	6 to 10

Reading, Literary Testlet, Middle of Year and End of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RL.4, L.4, L.5	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Literary Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RL.1 – RL.7, RL.9	10	2 to 3	10 to 16

Reading, Informational Testlet, Middle of Year and End of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RI.4, L.4, L.5	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RI.1 – RI.9	10	2 to 3	10 to 16

Writing, Performance Task, Middle of Year

Area	Dimension	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not reported 	RI.1 – RI.9	5	2 to 3	N/A
Writing: Written Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Expression – Organization Written Expression – Purpose / Development 	W.1 or W.2, W.4	1	3 to 4	6
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language and Conventions 	L.1 – L.3			2

Grade 5

Reading, Literary Testlet, Beginning of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RL.4, L.4, L.5	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Literary Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RL.1 – RL.7	6	2 to 3	6 to 10

Reading, Informational Testlet, Beginning of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RI.4, L.4, L.5	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RI.1 – RI.4, RI.6 – RI.8	6	2 to 3	6 to 10

Reading, Literary Testlet, Middle of Year and End of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RL.4, L.4, L.5	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Literary Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RL.1 – RL.7, RL.9	10	2 to 3	10 to 16

Reading, Informational Testlet, Middle of Year and End of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RI.4, L.4, L.5	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RI.1 – RI.9	10	2 to 3	10 to 16

Writing, Performance Task, Middle of Year

Area	Dimension	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not reported 	RI.1 – RI.9	5	2 to 3	N/A
Writing: Written Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Expression – Organization Written Expression – Purpose / Development 	W.1 or W.2, W.4	1	3 to 4	6
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language and Conventions 	L.1 – L.3			2

Grade 6

Reading, Literary Testlet, Beginning of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RL.4, L.4, L.5	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Literary Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RL.1 – RL.6	6	2 to 3	6 to 10

Reading, Informational Testlet, Beginning of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RI.4, L.4, L.5	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RI.1 – RI.8	6	2 to 3	6 to 10

Reading, Literary Testlet, Middle of Year and End of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RL.4, L.4, L.5	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Literary Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RL.1 – RL.7, RL.9	10	2 to 3	10 to 16

Reading, Informational Testlet, Middle of Year and End of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RI.4, L.4, L.5	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RI.1 – RI.9	10	2 to 3	10 to 16

Writing, Performance Task, Middle of Year

Area	Dimension	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not reported 	RI.1 – RI.9	5	2 to 3	N/A
Writing: Written Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Expression – Organization Written Expression – Purpose / Development 	W.1 or W.2, W.4	1	3 to 4	6
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language and Conventions 	L.1 – L.3			2

Grade 7

Reading, Literary Testlet, Beginning of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RL.4, L.4, L.5	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Literary Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RL.1 – RL.6	6	2 to 3	6 to 10

Reading, Informational Testlet, Beginning of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RI.4, L.4, L.5	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RI.1 – RI.6, RI.8	6	2 to 3	6 to 10

Reading, Literary Testlet, Middle of Year and End of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RL.4, L.4, L.5	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Literary Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RL.1 – RL.7	10	2 to 3	10 to 16

Reading, Informational Testlet, Middle of Year and End of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RI.4, L.4, L.5	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RI.1 – RI.9	10	2 to 3	10 to 16

Writing, Performance Task, Middle of Year

Area	Dimension	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not reported 	RI.1 – RI.9	5	2 to 3	N/A
Writing: Written Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Expression – Organization Written Expression – Purpose / Development 	W.1 or W.2, W.4	1	3 to 4	6
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language and Conventions 	L.1 – L.3			2

Grade 8

Reading, Literary Testlet, Beginning of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RL.4, L.4, L.5	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Literary Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RL.1 – RL.4, RL.6	6	2 to 3	6 to 10

Reading, Informational Testlet, Beginning of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RI.4, L.4, L.5	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	6	1 to 2	6
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RI.1 – RI.6, RI.8	6	2 to 3	6 to 10

Reading, Literary Testlet, Middle of Year and End of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RL.4, L.4, L.5	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Literary Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RL.1 – RL.7, RL.9	10	2 to 3	10 to 16

Reading, Informational Testlet, Middle of Year and End of Year

Area	Cluster	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 	RI.4, L.4, L.5	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language 	L.1, L.3	4	1 to 2	4
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 	RI.1 – RI.9	10	2 to 3	10 to 16

Writing, Performance Task, Middle of Year

Area	Dimension	Standards	Number of Items	Depth of Knowledge	Points
Reading: Informational Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not reported 	RI.1 – RI.9	5	2 to 3	N/A
Writing: Written Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Expression – Organization Written Expression – Purpose / Development 	W.1 or W.2, W.4	1	3 to 4	6
Writing: Knowledge of Language and Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Language and Conventions 	L.1 – L.3			2

Cluster-Area Mapping

This chart shows the relationships between the **Common Core State Standard** architecture and the ELA MGA reporting areas. The MGA clusters closely represent the named groups of related standards (clusters) in the CCSS. For example, standards that support the *Key Ideas and Details* area in reading comprehension (R.1–R.3) in the CCSS are found in the *Key Ideas and Details* cluster of the Reading Comprehension MGA reporting area.

MGA ELA Cluster	CCSS Anchor Standard Identification		MGA Content Areas
Key Ideas and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RI.1* • RI.2 • RI.3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RL.1* • RL.2 • RL.3 	Reading Comprehension
Craft and Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RI.5 • RI.6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RL.5 • RL.6 	Reading Comprehension
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RI.7 • RI.8 • RI.9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RL.7 • RL.9 	Reading Comprehension
Knowledge of Language Apply the knowledge of language to understand its function in various contexts while reading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L.1 • L.3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L.1 • L.3 	Syntax
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RI.4 • L.4 • L.5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RL.4 • L.4 • L.5 	Vocabulary

*RI.1 and RL.1 are ‘evidence’ standards that may be combined with other standard skills in two-part items.

Note from CCSS: The inclusion of Language standards in their own strand should not be taken as an indication that skills related to conventions, effective language use, and vocabulary are unimportant to reading, writing, speaking, and listening; indeed, they are inseparable from such contexts.

References

- Hasbrouck, J. & Tindall, G. (2006). *Oral Reading Fluency: 90 Years of Measurement*. Eugene, OR: Behavioral Research and Teaching.
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- Hess, K. K. (2011). *Learning Progressions Frameworks Designed for Use with the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts & Literacy K–12*.
- National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (2010). *Common Core State Standards Initiative: Preparing America's Students for College & Career*. Washington, D.C.: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, Council of Chief State School Officers.
- National Governors Association Center for Best Practices & Council of Chief State School Officers. (2010). *Common Core State Standards for English language arts and literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects*.

Document History

Version	Date	Changes Made	Author
0.1	11.2023	Initial draft	Wendi Anderson
0.2	12.2023	Internal revisions and editing	Wendi Anderson
0.3	7.2024	Internal revisions (Attributes, PT confirmation, Removed draft watermark)	Ann Gordon
0.4	7.2024	Blueprint tables reviewed and formatted	Ann Gordon Jacelyn Spicer
0.5	12.5.2024	Checked all MOY/EOY item counts and updated to ensure all correct 4 / 4 / 10 counts	Ann Gordon
0.6	1.23.2025	Added OPI-requested and approved table to end of document; added citation. Removed “Pilot” from heading page 2. Removed watermark image after page 1. Editorial Reviewed	Ann Gordon Eric Dombrowik
0.7	10.21.2025	Added note regarding scoring of performance tasks Added Cluster/Dimension to blueprint tables Revised format of blueprint tables	J Spicer
0.8	11.05.2025	Revise description of performance task Section 1 Para 5, removing “are not meant to be full essays, but rather shorter responses”	J Spicer