

A Teacher's Guide to Literacy Standards Implementation

Fourth Grade

Quarterly Sequence Guide



Purpose: This document was created to provide curricular guidance based on the grade level implementation of the Illinois Learning standards. The suggestions provided are intended to support quarterly selection of materials and instructional alignment to the standards. Equally successful models could be based around semesters, trimesters or other school schedules. Educators are allowed the flexibility to order the tasks and practices found on the Grade Quarter/Trimester Guide in any way, (located on page 3 of this guide). These tasks and practices are beneficial to teachers when implementing the standards and preparing for assessments. Always refer to standards for guidance.



The following literacy competencies should be a part of what students engage with regularly to be college and career ready. The importance of these skills is reflected in the overarching Anchor Standards and defined more fully in the supporting grade level standards. These standards also underscore students' need for regular opportunities to grapple with close, analytic reading of grade-level complex texts and to construct increasingly sophisticated responses in writing. Many tasks should include opportunities to write about these texts either to express an opinion/make an argument or to inform/explain. In addition, research and narrative writing tasks should be a part of each quarter/trimester.

Reading complex texts (although complex texts are not assigned to be read independently at K-2): This requires students to read and comprehend a range of grade-level complex texts, including texts from the domains of ELA, science, history/social studies, technical subjects and the arts. Because vocabulary is a critical component of reading comprehension, it should be assessed in the context of reading passages.

Students are expected to conduct close, analytic readings as well as compare and synthesize ideas across texts. Students then write about these texts either to express an opinion or to inform/explain. In addition, research and narrative writing tasks appear.

Writing effectively when using and/or analyzing sources: Students are expected to conduct text-focused discussions and produce (both collaboratively and independently), written work aligned with the standards. This requires students to demonstrate the interrelated literacy skills of reading, gathering evidence about what is read, as well as analyzing and presenting that evidence in writing. Building student competence and confidence through opportunities to observe teacher modeling and to participate in collaborative group writing experiences, for all three modes of writing, (Standards 1, 2 and 3), is necessary to encourage and support increasing independence at this level.

Conducting and reporting on research: This expands on “writing when analyzing sources” to require students to demonstrate their ability to gather resources, evaluate their relevance, and report on information and ideas they have investigated (i.e., conducting research to answer questions or to solve problems).

Speaking and listening: This requires students to demonstrate a range of interactive oral communication and interpersonal skills, including (but not limited to) skills necessary for making presentations, working collaboratively, sharing findings and listening carefully to the ideas of others.

Language use for reading, writing and speaking: This requires students to have a strong command of grammar and spoken and written academic English. Students are asked to read and/or listen to texts and respond critically through discussion and in writing. Responses may take the form of written or oral explanation and opinion. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration with peers. The transfer of language skills to students occurs through authentic tasks in reading, writing, and speaking.

Fourth Grade Expectations for Student Engagement

Providing students with opportunities to regularly practice the following skills provides them a chance to master grade level standards. If using a commercially published curriculum or district /school/teacher created materials, this guide can provide a pulse check as to whether specific components are present and if students are completing tasks that align to the standards and prepare for assessments.

Students also need opportunities to practice grade level social emotional learning (SEL) through high quality and authentic tasks. To assist educators in infusing the SEL, ISBE has provided "Stages" of development that include more detailed performance descriptors of student's skills. See the back of this guide for additional grade level materials for SEL..

Decode Words and Read Fluently

Students should apply their knowledge of phonics and word analysis to recognize words they encounter when reading texts and read with accuracy and fluency to comprehend texts. Students should build word analysis skills so they are reliably able to make sense of multisyllabic words.

Apply Vocabulary and Knowledge of Language

Students require multiple exposures to targeted vocabulary words in authentic contexts to retain an understanding of the words' meaning(s). Focus vocabulary instruction on words that students would transfer to use effectively in writing and speaking. Students should also be adept at using content-specific words to build knowledge through content under study. Grammar and usage should be integrated with explicit instruction of language rules as they appear in the context of reading, writing and speaking.

Analyze Content

Students should carefully gather observations about a text by examining its meaning and details thoroughly and methodically. Teachers should encourage students to reread deliberately.

Conduct Discussions

Students should follow agreed upon rules to engage in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on one, small group, teacher-led), enabling them to build effectively on one another's ideas while clearly explaining their own. Students should have opportunities to practice SEL through discussions that focus on social-awareness and interpersonal skills. Teachers should look for students to exhibit decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community contexts.

Cite Evidence

Students should be able to refer to details and examples from texts when explaining what the text says and when drawing inferences. Use the text, illustrations, photographs and other possible text features as the basis for answers.

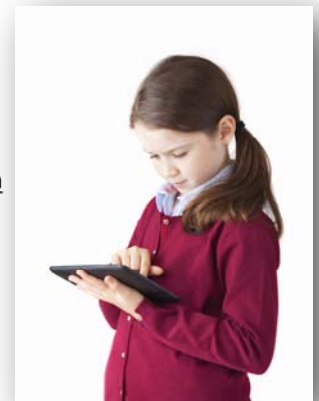
Writing Expectations

Students build competence and confidence through daily involvement in shared group experiences, teacher modeling, and individual practice in all three writing modes. This writing should describe accurately what happens in a text and recognize/select the most relevant information. All analytic writing should put a premium on using details from the text as well as on crafting works that display some logical integration and coherence. Use of specific facts and descriptive details is emphasized. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing.

Report Findings Students should report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes .

Digital Integration and Application

With prompting and support, students will use digital tools to produce and publish writing along with analyzing multimedia illustrations and text to demonstrate understanding.



Text Types and Tasks

Students should be adept at reading text and answering questions solely based upon a text. However, text has become a term that encompasses a variety of materials inclusive of written work, visual representation such as clips of movies, or artwork, a variety of primary documents and secondary documents including speeches, and other media in a variety of formats such as blogs, posts, editorials, feeds, online texts, etc. It is up to the teacher's discretion to determine the text types based on the needs of students.

Various types of texts may be incorporated according to the relevance of the task. Teachers may use the most relevant reading standard in order to engage students. For support in crafting aligned literacy tasks, please view the grade level Guidance for Designing Literacy Tasks in the resource section of this guide.

Examples of Informational texts: biographies and autobiographies; books about history, social studies, science and the arts; technical texts , including directions, forms and information displayed in graphs, charts or maps; and digital resources on a range of topics written for a broad audience.

Examples of Literature: adventure stories, mysteries, folktales, legends, fables, fantasy, realistic fiction, and drama, with a special emphasis on myths. Also included are nursery rhymes, narrative poems, limericks and free verse.

Fourth Grade Quarter/Trimester Guide

(Optional model to consider when constructing a year-long course of instruction. Specific sample tasks and guidelines are modeled in the following document: [Fourth Grade Guidance for Literacy Task Design](#))

Reading

The goal of Fourth Grade is to build upon the skills of Kindergarten–Third Grade to master reading and writing.

Foundational Skills: Grade level Foundational Skills Standards are an integrated part of reading instruction so students are able to fluently read and comprehend texts. These skills are transferred when students integrate them with the text to which they read and write. A coherent curriculum is suggested and should connect to content being studied.

Reading Complex Texts: Students read on-grade level texts at the appropriate complexity such that they can ask and answer questions by referring explicitly to a text (RL/RI.4.1).

Students should delve deeply into texts to summarize both the main and supporting ideas, explain what happened and why, and recognize allusions to significant characters found in mythology.

Short Texts Literature - 50% Informational – 50%

Texts to include students working collaboratively and independently:

Fiction, poetry, Myths	— Draw ample evidence from texts and present ideas and information orally using vocabulary learned.
Science	— Present analyses in writing and orally
Social Studies or Arts	

Extended Text(s) Balance of:

Literature (i.e., novel, short story, or play)
Informational (i.e, text, article, speech, etc)

Extended Text: Anchor or extended read aloud texts

- Compare and synthesize ideas across other related texts
- Have text-focused discussions
- Produce oral, and written responses



Writing

In Fourth Grade, students write to introduce topics and support ideas from experiences and sources. Additionally, they use technology to produce and publish writing. They are also expected to meet the grade-specific grammar and conventions standards and retain or further develop the skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.

Writing routinely throughout the year requires students to:

- Write short constructed responses to text-dependent questions
- Write to build content knowledge and reflect on text(s)
- Mix on-demand, review, and revision writing tasks appropriate to grade level
- Build confidence and competence with technology
- Assess students’ abilities to paraphrase, infer and integrate ideas from reading

Writing To Texts – 65% Analytical

Balance of Opinion & Informative/Explanatory Analyses (Aligns to PARCC Research Simulation or Literary Analysis Tasks)

- Write to create informative/explanatory pieces that display logical integration and coherence
- Use evidence
- Answer brief questions to craft multiparagraph responses
- Over the course of the year, analytic writing should include comparative analysis and student writing that shares findings from research projects

Writing Extended Research Projects: Beneficial if the project connects to a short or extended text

- Participate in a shared research and writing project
- Write to address a topic/problem/issue
- Integrate knowledge from experiences or information from several texts in various media or formats
- Take notes on sources and categorize the information
- Provide list of sources
- Present findings in a variety of presentation methods, including informal/formal opinion or explanatory contexts either in writing or oral formats

Writing Narratives - 35%

- Write narratives to express personal ideas and experiences; craft their own stories, and descriptions; and deepen understandings of literary concepts, structures and genres (short stories, anecdotes, poetry, drama) through purposeful imitation
- Write to reflect on **what they read** through imaginative writing and to practice sequencing events and ideas through narrative descriptions (**Aligns to PARCC Narrative Task**)

Resources to Support Fourth Grade Standards Implementation

[Standards Bookmarks](#) (for Teachers) [Designing Literacy Tasks](#)

Foundational Skills:

- ◇ [By Standard Direction](#)
- ◇ [Strategy Guide](#)
- ◇ [Fluency Guidance](#)

Reading:

- ◇ [Text Complexity](#)
- ◇ [Text Dependent Questions](#)
- ◇ [Mentor Text Resources](#)
- ◇ [Strategies by Standard](#)
- ◇ [Text Sets](#)

Writing:

- ◇ [Strategies by Standard](#)

Language:

- ◇ [Vocabulary Strategies](#)

Speaking & Listening

- ◇ [Collaborative Conversation Sentence Stems](#)
- ◇ [Strategies by Standard](#)

Social Emotional Learning

- ◇ [Standards, Goals and Strategies](#)



Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.

John Dewey



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Classrooms in Action Team of ISBE Content Specialists:

Heather Brown, Math
hmbrown2@ilstu.edu

Jill Brown, ELA
jmbro16@ilstu.edu

Katie Elvidge, Social Science
kelfvidg@ilstu.edu

Erik Iwersen, ELA
eiwerse@ilstu.edu



Sue Mainville, Data/Math
samainv@ilstu.edu

Kevin McClure, Learning Supports
kimccclu@ilstu.edu

Kathi Rhodus, ELA
ksrhodu@ilstu.edu

Jeanine Sheppard, Math
jsheppa@ilstu.edu

Lisa Ward, Learning Supports
lkward2@ilstu.edu

Linda Vernon, Director, Center for Educational Initiatives: llverno@ilstu.edu