

# Content Standard IV

## Language Conventions

**Students use standard English grammar in spoken and written communication to express their messages effectively. This study of language conventions occurs through direct instruction and within the context of reading, writing, and speaking activities.**

### Performance Standards

#### KINDERGARTEN

To progress toward the content standard, kindergarten students will:

**Show evidence of standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics in their oral and written work.**

To progress toward meeting the grade level standard, students will:

- Recognize and use correct word order in sentences when speaking.
- Print their own name using appropriate upper and lower case letters.
- Identify difference between lower and upper case letters.

#### GRADE ONE

To progress toward the content standard, first grade students will:

**Show evidence of standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics in their oral and written work.**

To progress toward meeting the grade level standard, students will:

- Write and speak in complete, coherent sentences.
- Identify and use singular and plural nouns.
- Use periods at the end of sentences.
- Capitalize own name correctly.

**Use developmentally appropriate spelling in their written work.**

To progress toward meeting the grade level standard, students will:

- In a piece of writing, use correct spelling for high-frequency words and simple words with regular spelling patterns.
- Use knowledge of letters and corresponding sounds to write approximate spellings of new words.

**GRADE TWO**

To progress toward the content standard, second grade students will:

**Show evidence of standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics in their oral and written work.**

To progress toward meeting the grade level standard, students will:

- Hear and distinguish between complete and incomplete sentences.
- Use correct word order in written and oral sentences.
- Identify past and present regular verbs.
- Use pronouns.
- Understands difference between noun and verb.
- Use periods, question marks, exclamation points appropriately.
- Use commas in greeting and closures in a letter.
- Use commas with dates and words in a series.
- Capitalize first word of a sentence, names of people, the pronoun "I", the months and the days of the week.

**Use developmentally appropriate spelling in their written work.**

To progress toward meeting the grade level standard students will:

- Spell high-frequency words, including irregular words (e.g., who, want, what).
- Use transitional spelling in their writing.

## **GRADE THREE**

To progress toward the content standard, third grade students will:

**Show evidence of standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics in their oral and written work.**

To progress toward meeting the grade level standard, students will:

- Use declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in speaking and writing.
- Identify and use subject/verb agreement, pronouns, and articles in speaking and writing.
- Use past, present, and future verb tenses in speaking and writing.
- Identify and use singular possessives and contractions.
- Use commas between city and state.
- Capitalize proper nouns and titles.

**Use developmentally appropriate spelling in their written work**

To progress toward meeting the grade level standard, students will:

- Spell high frequency words, contractions, and compounds words correctly. Spell grade appropriate words with regular and irregular spelling patterns correctly.
- Use transitional spelling for unfamiliar words.
- Spell by referring to resources when necessary.

## **GRADE FOUR**

To progress toward the content standard, fourth grade students will:

**Show evidence of standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics in their oral and written work.**

To progress toward meeting the grade level standard, students will:

- Identify and use a wide variety of adjectives.
- Identify and understand the use of conjunctions, prepositional phrases and transitional words to combine short sentences and phrases into complex sentences.
- Use and understand antonyms and synonyms.

- Use apostrophes in possessives and contractions.
- Use quotation marks for dialogue.
- Use underlining, quotations or italics to identify titles.
- Capitalize names of magazines, newspapers, works of art, musical compositions, names of organizations, and the first word in quotations.

**Use conventional spelling in their written work.**

To progress toward meeting the grade level standard, students will:

- Spell high frequency words, contractions, and compound words correctly.
- Spell grade appropriate words with regular and irregular spelling patterns correctly.
- Use transitional spelling for unfamiliar words.
- Spell by referring to resources when necessary.

**GRADE FIVE**

To progress toward the content standard, fifth grade students will:

**Show evidence of standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics in their oral and written work.**

To progress toward meeting the grade level standard, students will:

- Use complex sentences.
- Use a variety of strategies to combine short, related sentences.
- Identify and use independent and dependent clauses, transitions and conjunctions to elaborate ideas.
- Use troublesome verbs (e.g., lie/lay, sit/set, rise/raise) appropriately.
- Use possessive pronouns correctly.
- Use a colon to introduce a list.
- Use quotation marks around names of poems, songs, short stories, etc.

**Use conventional spelling in their written work**

To progress toward meeting the grade level standard, students will:

- Spell frequently misspelled words correctly (e.g., their, they're, there).
- Spell grade appropriate words with blends, regular and irregular spelling patterns and affixes correctly.
- Use conventional spelling for high frequency words.
- Edit unfamiliar spelling independently, using a variety of resources.

## **GRADE SIX**

To progress toward the content standard, sixth grade students will:

**Show evidence of standard English grammar, usage and mechanics in their oral and written work.**

To progress toward meeting the grade level standard, students will:

- Use more complex sentence structure.
- Use troublesome verbs (e.g., lie/lay, sit/set, rise/raise) appropriately.
- Use present, past, and future tense, subject-verb agreement with compound subjects and indefinite pronouns correctly.
- Use capitalization, punctuation (quotation marks, commas )and indentation in conversational dialog.
- Use colons in business letters, semi-colons to connect independent clauses compound sentences, and commas when linking two clauses with a conjunction.

**Use conventional spelling in their written work**

- Spell derivatives correctly by applying the spellings of bases and affixes.
- Spell roots, inflections, suffixes, and prefixes.

## **GRADES SEVEN THROUGH TWELVE**

To progress toward the content standard secondary students will:

**Apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g. spelling, comma usage, capitalization, punctuation, sentence and paragraph structure), figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss texts.**

## **GRADE SEVEN, EIGHT, AND NINE**

To progress toward meeting the grade level standard, students will:

- Use a dictionary to determine the meaning, spelling, pronunciation, and parts of speech of words.
- Recognize and correct run-ons and fragments in their own and others' writing.
- Produce legible work that shows accurate spelling and correct use of the conventions of capitalization and punctuation, with special emphasis on the comma, semicolon, and colon.
- Use the correct citation and punctuation of direct and indirect quotations.

- Recognize the importance of parallelism.
- Recognize misused language conventions and know how to correct them.
- Recognize the difference in both spoken and written material between formal and informal language.
- Analyze the function of different sentence structures such as simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex in various texts.
- Recognize and use gerunds, participles, and infinitives correctly in sentences.
- Recognize how the use of suffixes dictates changes in the way words can be used in a sentence.
- Identify parts of speech in sentences including those with unusual/inverted word order and use them to talk about their writing.
- Recognize and avoid using clichés.
- Understand and use regular and irregular verbs and their tenses correctly.
- Understand different points of view and use them consistently in their writing.

## **GRADE TEN, ELEVEN, AND TWELVE**

To progress toward the grade level standard, students will:

- Use a dictionary to determine meaning, spelling, pronunciation, and etymology of words.
- Eliminate the misuse of run-ons and fragments and use a variety of sentence structures and styles in their writing.
- Demonstrates their ability to use commas, semicolons, colons, and quotation marks in their writing.
- Reflect appropriate manuscript form and style including integration of source and support material with direct and indirect quotations and other cited material in their research writing.
- Reflect their ability to use correct parallel structure in their writing.
- Produce legible work that demonstrates their control of language conventions, spelling, parts of speech, paragraph and sentence structure, diction and usage.
- Understand and use different points of view consistently to create a specific tone in their writing.
- Use simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentence structures correctly.
- Discuss their writing using specific vocabulary about language and its conventions.
- Use regular and irregular verb tenses correctly and consistently in their writing.