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Table of Contents - Functional ELA

Course / Unit Basic Description

Stage 1 Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions

Stage 2: Essential Content, Concepts & Skill Stage 3: Assessments/Evidence of Learning

Stage 4: Learning Plan

Curriculum Development Hub

UbD Curriculum Overview	
Department	Special Education
Course Name	Functional ELA



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Course Summary

The Functional ELA course will develop fundamental reading and written expression skills necessary for success in real world situations both at home and on the job. This course focuses on reading, writing, speaking, and listening within real-life contexts. Students will explore key vocabulary, reading comprehension, and both written and oral communication as they apply to tasks of everyday living and LCCTC's Service Occupations vocational program. Instruction will be driven by needs determined by baseline assessments and outlined in student IEPs. This course is designed to build essential English Language Arts skills for high school students with life skills needs. It emphasizes practical, real-world reading, writing, speaking, and listening tasks. Students will develop literacy and communication skills necessary for independence, employment, community participation, and personal well-being.

- Functional Reading Comprehension: Students will learn to read and interpret a variety of texts prevalent in everyday life including but not limited to: nutrition labels, recipes, menus, medication labels, job postings, retail ads, instruction manuals, and informational forms.
- Functional Writing Skills: Students will practice writing in the real world, including but not limited to: composing emails, filling out forms, drafting resumes, and responding to direct questions.
- Functional Oral Communication: Through role-plays and various tasks, students will improve their ability to communicate verbally in a variety of contexts. They will develop effective speaking and listening skills, including active listening, asking questions for assistance or clarification, and delivering concise and coherent messages. Students will explore proper phone usage both as a person making a call and person receiving a call.
- Functional Digital Media Literacy: Students will examine various forms of media, including ads, news articles, and social media posts for the purpose of recognizing real information vs clickbait. They will learn to navigate the digital landscape responsibly and recognize reliable sources of information. Internet safety lessons will also be reviewed.
- Content and resources will be chosen based on the students' instructional reading levels. This course will be fluid, and content will focus on students' abilities and needs. For example, if students do well with improving their ability to accurately read and understand nutrition labels or medication labels, then the class will move to another functional reading task/skill.

Unit Name	Unit 1: Reading for Everyday Life		
Grade Level(s)	10-12 (Life Skills)	Time / Duration	1 year (on-going)
Created (Date)	05-27-2024	Revised (Date)	04-20-2025

Standards Addressed

PA Alternate Standards for Reading

• Locate various texts, media and traditional resources for assigned and independent projects before reading. (1.1.11.A) Identifies content of material Chooses correct source for needed information



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- Analyze the structure of informational materials (1.1.11.B) Uses titles, pictures, etc to identify content of source
- Use knowledge of root words and words from literary works to recognize and understand the meaning of new words during reading. Use these words accurately in speaking and writing. (1.1.11.C)
- Establish a reading vocabulary by identifying and correctly using new words acquired through the study of their relationships to other words. Use a dictionary or related reference. (1.1.11.E) Identifies similar and related pictures/words Identifies categories of pictures/words Identifies function of pictures/words Identifies picture based on characteristics named/described Reads complex pictures Reads words in isolation
- Understand the meaning of and apply key vocabulary across the various subject areas. (1.1.11.F)
 Identifies function of item presented as object, picture or word Defines words with examples
 Demonstrates meaning of word by categorizing
- CC.1.2.9–10.A, B, C (Informational Text: Key Ideas, Craft, and Structure)

Stage 1 - Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students?		
Big Ideas	 Reading and understanding various texts is essential for success in everyday life and career readiness. Developing functional vocabulary is critical to building foundational comprehension skills Reading helps us understand and navigate the world around us. 	
Transfer	 Students will be able to independently use their learning to Analyze and interpret recipes and instructions accurately. Decode and comprehend medicine labels effectively. Expand vocabulary related to food, health, safety, and everyday tasks. Navigate and comprehend menus from different contexts. Determine relevant information from informational texts. Interpret schedules for managing time efficiently. Interpret and understand job postings for employment opportunities. Follow and understand task lists for completing various activities. 	



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Meaning	Students will understand that Students will understand the importance of accurate reading and comprehension in real-world contexts Reading practical texts is necessary for everyday decision-making. Identifying important information in functional texts is a key life skill.
Essential Questions	 Why is it important to be able to read and understand different types of texts in everyday life? How does building vocabulary improve our ability to comprehend and communicate effectively? What strategies can we use to improve our reading skills in different real world contexts? How do I use reading to manage daily tasks and responsibilities?

Stage 1 - Essential Content, Concepts, & Skills

What do we want students to know and be able to do?

Acquisition

Knowledge

Students will know...

- Key terms related to following recipe
- Key terms related to reading medicine labels and understanding the dosage and usage instructions.
- How to find key information in informational texts
- How to read and interpret a schedule
- Reading forms, signs, labels, schedules, charts
- Identifying purpose and key information
- Using reading strategies to locate and interpret data



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Skills

Students will be skilled at (be able to do)...

- Task 1: Reading and following a recipe to prepare a simple meal.
- Task 2: Analyzing and understanding medicine labels.
- Task 3: Reading and understanding job postings.
- Task 4: Reading and interpreting task lists for completing a specific project or assignment.

Stage 2 - Assessments / Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth? How will you know that they did it?

Evaluation Criteria (F/S)

Formative Evaluation

- Reading a recipe: Assessment criteria include accuracy in following instructions, understanding cooking terminology, and successful completion of the dish.
- Reading Medicine Labels: Students will demonstrate comprehension by identifying key information such as dosage, side effects, and warnings.
- Reading Job Postings: Students will identify essential details such as job requirements, responsibilities, and qualifications.
- Reading Task Lists: Assessment criteria include identifying sequential steps and prioritizing tasks.

Summative Evaluation

 Boom Decks (Interactive Task Cards), Gimkits, Interactive Online Activities/Assignments including digital task cards, self-checking activities that provide instant feedback to student

Assessment Evidence

Performance Task(s) / Think:

- Execute recipe instructions independently
- Communicate warnings on medication labels to others
- Identify the appropriate candidate for a job posting out of three given options
- Read and execute a given task list

Other Evidence:

- Observable classroom performance
- Students able to explain a task in detail to another student

Stage 3 - Learning Plan

What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring



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understandings and essential questions for all students? This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction.

Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction

- Students will engage in many different tasks related to Functional Reading Comprehension
- Plan is to introduce a set of vocabulary terms for the week. Mon-Thurs. Three vocabulary words will be presented with a review each day of any previous day's words. Fridays will be some form of assessment of the twelve words taught that week.
- In addition to vocabulary, students will have opportunities for oral reading to build fluency
- Students will listen to text being orally read to them by teacher in order to build listening comprehension
- Students will read and answer comprehension questions based on a variety of functional texts and materials
- Students will complete daily progress monitoring pages in a teacher created workbook based on IEP goals
- Daily warm-ups using real-world texts
- Partner scavenger hunts with labeled images
- Guided reading and annotation practice
- Group discussions: "What would you do?" scenarios

Resources

- Vocabulary Introduced and reviewed daily
- Google Slides Presentations
- Functional Reading Materials: Labels, articles, recipes, instructions, job postings, etc.
- Scholastic Choices Magazine for real world articles relating to teen health and wellness
- Student Workbooks (Teacher Created)
- Partner Practice.. pencil/paper activities or digital activities
- Independent Progress Monitoring Probes and Assessments
- Interactive Online Activities/Assignments including digital task cards, self-checking activities that provide instant feedback to student
- Let's Go Learn Independent Learning Activities based on diagnostic assessment

UbD Curriculum Overview		
Department	Special Education	
Course Name	Functional ELA	
Unit Name	Unit 2: Writing for Everyday Life	



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Grade Level(s)	10-12 (Life Skills)	Time / Duration	1 year (on-going)
Created (Date)	05-27-2024	Revised (Date)	04-20-2025

Standards Addressed

- Standard CC.1.4.9-10.B Write with a sharp distinct focus identifying topic, task, and audience
- **C.IE.1.1.2** Demonstrate an understanding of the purpose with relevant information, content, and details.
- Standard **CC.1.4.9-10.C** Develop and analyze the topic with relevant, well-chosen, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details
- **C.IE.1.1** Write informative and explanatory pieces that describe, explain, or summarize information or ideas.
- **Standard CC.1.4.9-10.F** Demonstrate a grade-appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
- **CC.1.4.9–10.A–E** (Informative and Opinion Writing)

Stage 1 - Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students?		
Big Ideas	 Written expression is an important life skill Communicating information in writing is necessary for many different life situations Writing clearly helps us share information and express needs. 	
Transfer	 Students will be able to independently use their learning to Compose an email Fill out various forms (e.g., job application, medical office intake form, etc.) Draft a written response to OVR presentation Draft a resume and cover letter for a hypothetical job application. Fill out a survey 	
Meaning	 Students will understand When it is appropriate to share personal information and what personal information is appropriate to share How to appropriately complete their name, address, phone number, and email address on an informational form Writing is a tool for communication in everyday life. Good writing is clear, purposeful, and organized. 	
Essential Questions	 Why is communication in writing important in daily life? What strategies can we use to ensure clarity, coherence, and correctness in our writing? 	



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- How is written expression important to job skills and employment?
- How do I use writing to get what I need and express myself?

Stage 1 - Essential Content, Concepts, & Skills What do we want students to know and be able to do?		
	Acquisition	
Knowledge	 Students will know The components needed to draft an email Proper capitalization, spelling, and punctuation when filling out informational forms or applications Writing in complete sentences What information belongs on a resume and in a cover letter 	
Skills	Students will be skilled at (be able to do) Compose an email Fill out various forms (e.g., job application, medical office intake form, etc.) Draft a written response to OVR presentation Draft a resume and cover letter for a hypothetical job application. Fill out a survey Writing emails, messages, appointment notes, and simple letters Using complete sentences and clear vocabulary Organizing ideas logically	

Stage 2 - Assessments / Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth? How will you know that they did it?

Evaluation Criteria (F/S)	Assessment Evidence
Formative Evaluation Filling out informational forms Writing a note to a teacher or employer Creating a complaint letter or thank-you card Exit tickets and journals	Performance Task(s) / Think:
Summative Evaluation • Progress Monitoring Probe	Other Evidence:

Stage 3 - Learning Plan



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What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students? This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction.

Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction

- Sentence building games
- CLOZE activities
- Model and co-create functional writing samples
- Practice forms, emails, and everyday written communication

Resources

- Vocabulary Introduced and reviewed daily
- Google Slides Presentations
- Functional Reading Materials: Labels, articles, recipes, instructions, job postings, etc.
- Scholastic Choices Magazine for real world articles relating to teen health and wellness
- Student Workbooks (Teacher Created)
- Partner Practice.. pencil/paper activities or digital activities
- Independent Progress Monitoring Probes and Assessments
- Interactive Online Activities/Assignments including digital task cards, self-checking activities that provide instant feedback to student
- Let's Go Learn Independent Learning Activities based on diagnostic assessment

UbD Curriculum Overview			
Department	Special Education		
Course Name	Functional ELA		
Unit Name	Unit 3: Speaking and Listening for Real Life		
Grade Level(s)	10-12	Time / Duration	1 year
Created (Date)	04-20-2025	Revised (Date)	

Standards Addressed

CC.1.5.9–10.A, C, D (Speaking and Listening)



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Stage 1 - Desired Results: Enduring	Understandings & Essential Questions
What are the overarching take	eaways and big ideas for students?

Big Ideas	 Effective speaking and listening skills help build relationships and solve problems.
Transfer	Students will be able to independently use their learning to • Making requests and giving/receiving instructions • Practicing tone, volume, and body language • Asking for help or clarification
Meaning	Students will understand that Clear communication builds trust and understanding. Listening is just as important as speaking.
Essential Questions	How can I communicate clearly and respectfully in different situations?

Stage 1 - Essential Content, Concepts, & Skills What do we want students to know and be able to do?

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Acquisition		
Knowledge	Students will know •	
Skills	Students will be skilled at (be able to do) Making requests and giving/receiving instructions Practicing tone, volume, and body language Asking for help or clarification	

Stage 2 - Assessments / Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth? How will you know that they did it?

Evaluation Criteria (F/S)	Assessment Evidence	
 Formative Evaluation Role-plays (e.g., job interview, phone call, asking for directions) Rubrics for active listening and respectful 	Performance Task(s) / Think:	
communication Summative Evaluation •	Other Evidence:	



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Stage 3 - Learning Plan

What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students? This section provides a summary of the

Key Learning Events and Instruction. **Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction** Resources

UbD Curriculum Overview			
Department			
Course Name			
Course Summary			
Unit Name			
Grade Level(s)		Time / Duration	
Created (Date)		Revised (Date)	
Standards Addressed			
List all standards that will be addressed during the unit.			

Stage 1 - Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students?			
Big Ideas	1.		
Transfer	Students will be able to independently use their learning to •		



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Meaning	Students will understand that
Facestial Ossestians	1

Stage 1 - Essential Content, Concepts, & Skills What do we want students to know and be able to do?			
Acquisition			
Knowledge	Students will know		
Skills	Students will be skilled at (be able to do) •		

Stage 2 - Assessments / Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth? How will you know that they did it?

Evaluation Criteria (F/S)	Assessment Evidence	
Formative Evaluation •	Performance Task(s) / Think:	
Summative Evaluation •	Other Evidence:	

Stage 3 - Learning Plan
What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students? This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction.

Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction



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UbD Curriculum Overview			
Department			
Course Name			
Course Summary			
Unit Name			
Grade Level(s)		Time / Duration	
Created (Date)		Revised (Date)	
Standards Addressed			
List all standards that will be addressed during the unit.			

Stage 1 - Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students?			
Big Ideas	2.		
Transfer	Students will be able to independently use their learning to •		
Meaning	Students will understand that		
Essential Questions	2.		

Stage 1 - Essential Content, Concepts, & Skills What do we want students to know and be able to do?		
Acquisition		
Knowledge	Students will know	
Skills	Students will be skilled at (be able to do)	



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Stage 2 - Assessments / Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth? How will you know that they did it?

Evaluation Criteria (F/S)	Assessment Evidence	
Formative Evaluation •	Performance Task(s) / Think:	
Summative Evaluation •	Other Evidence:	

Stage 3 - Learning Plan
What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students? This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction.

Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction

UbD Curriculum Overview			
Department			
Course Name			
Course Summary			
Unit Name			
Grade Level(s)		Time / Duration	
Created (Date)		Revised (Date)	



Essential Questions

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3.

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Standards Addressed

List all standards that will be addressed during the unit.

Stage 1 - Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students? 3. **Big Ideas Transfer** Students will be able to independently use their learning to... Students will understand that... Meaning

Stage 1 - Essential Content, Concepts, & Skills What do we want students to know and be able to do?		
Acquisition		
Knowledge	Students will know	
Skills	Students will be skilled at (be able to do) •	

Stage 2 - Assessments / Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth? How will you know that they did it?

Evaluation Criteria (F/S)	Assessment Evidence
Formative Evaluation • Commenting Evaluation	Performance Task(s) / Think:
Summative Evaluation •	Other Evidence:



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Stage 3 - Learning Plan What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students? This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction. **Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction** Resources

UbD Curriculum Overview			
Department			
Course Name			
Course Summary			
Unit Name			
Grade Level(s)		Time / Duration	
Created (Date)		Revised (Date)	
Standards Addressed			
List all standards that will be addressed during the unit.			

Stage 1 - Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students?		
Big Ideas	4.	
Transfer	Students will be able to independently use their learning to •	



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Meaning	Students will understand that
Essential Questions	4.

Stage 1 - Essential Content, Concepts, & Skills What do we want students to know and be able to do?		
Acquisition		
Knowledge	Students will know	
Skills	Students will be skilled at (be able to do) •	

Stage 2 - Assessments / Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth? How will you know that they did it?

Evaluation Criteria (F/S)	Assessment Evidence
Formative Evaluation •	Performance Task(s) / Think:
Summative Evaluation •	Other Evidence:

Stage 3 - Learning Plan
What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students? This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction.

Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction



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Department

Course Name

Course Summary

Unit Name

Grade Level(s)

Time / Duration

Created (Date)

Standards Addressed

List all standards that will be addressed during the unit.

Stage 1 - Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students?		
Big Ideas	5.	
Transfer	Students will be able to independently use their learning to •	
Meaning	Students will understand that	
Essential Questions	5.	

Stage 1 - Essential Content, Concepts, & Skills What do we want students to know and be able to do?		
Acquisition		
Knowledge	Students will know •	
Skills	Students will be skilled at (be able to do)	



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Stage 2 - Assessments / Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth? How will you know that they did it?

Evaluation Criteria (F/S)	Assessment Evidence
Formative Evaluation •	Performance Task(s) / Think:
Summative Evaluation •	Other Evidence:

Stage 3 - Learning Plan
What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students? This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction.

Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction

UbD Curriculum Overview			
Department			
Course Name			
Course Summary			
Unit Name			
Grade Level(s)		Time / Duration	
Created (Date)		Revised (Date)	



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Standards Addressed

List all standards that will be addressed during the unit.

Stage 1 - Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students? **Big Ideas** 6. **Transfer** Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

Students will understand that... Meaning

6. **Essential Questions**

Stage 1 - Essential Content, Concepts, & Skills

	What do we want students to know and be able to do?
Acquisition	
Knowledge	Students will know •
Skills	Students will be skilled at (be able to do) •

Stage 2 - Assessments / Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth? How will you know that they did it?

Evaluation Criteria (F/S)	Assessment Evidence
Formative Evaluation Summative Evaluation •	Performance Task(s) / Think:
	Other Evidence:



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Stage 3 - Learning Plan What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students? This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction. **Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction** Resources

UbD Curriculum Overview			
Department			
Course Name			
Course Summary			
Unit Name			
Grade Level(s)		Time / Duration	
Created (Date)		Revised (Date)	
Standards Addressed			
List all standards that will be addressed during the unit.			

Stage 1 - Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students?		
Big Ideas	7.	
Transfer	Students will be able to independently use their learning to •	



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Meaning	Students will understand that
Essential Questions	7.

Stage 1 - Essential Content, Concepts, & Skills What do we want students to know and be able to do?		
Acquisition		
Knowledge	Students will know	
Skills	Students will be skilled at (be able to do) •	

Stage 2 - Assessments / Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth? How will you know that they did it?

Evaluation Criteria (F/S)	Assessment Evidence
Formative Evaluation Summative Evaluation •	Performance Task(s) / Think:
	Other Evidence:

Stage 3 - Learning Plan
What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students? This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction.

Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction



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