

Lexington Public Schools

K-5 ELA & Literacy Overview

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MA Curriculum Frameworks and Guiding Principles for ELA & Literacy Programs

Lexington's K-5 ELA & Literacy curriculum integrates all four strands of the [MA Curriculum Frameworks for English Language Arts and Literacy](#). These include: Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening, and Language.

We also value and integrate the **MA Guiding Principles for English Language Arts and Literacy Programs**, which are outlined below.

Guiding Principle 1

Students should receive explicit instruction in skills, including phonics and decoding. Explicit skill instruction is especially important in narrowing opportunity gaps.

Guiding Principle 2

To become successful readers, students need to develop a rich academic vocabulary and broad background knowledge.

Guiding Principle 3

Educators should help students develop a love of reading by:

- Selecting high-quality works of literature and nonfiction.
- Reading aloud in class.
- Providing students with ample opportunity and encouragement for sustained independent reading, both for school and on their own.

Guiding Principle 4

Students should be exposed to complex and challenging texts at their grade level and above, with extra support and scaffolding as needed, reflecting high expectations for all students.

Guiding Principle 5

Students should read a diverse set of authentic texts balanced across genres, cultures, and time periods. Authentic texts are intact and

unadapted texts in their original complexity; they are texts composed for purposes other than being studied in school.

Guiding Principle 6

Students should have frequent opportunities for discussing and writing about their readings in order to develop critical thinking skills and to demonstrate understanding.

Guiding Principle 7

Reading well-crafted texts is an essential foundation for developing effective writing skills

Guiding Principle 8

Developing the ability to write well demands regular practice across multiple forms and genres of writing and opportunities to write for a variety of audiences, including expository, analytical, persuasive, narrative, and creative writing, as well as explicit instruction in vocabulary and standard English conventions.

Guiding Principle 9

Educators and families should view each other as resources who are both invested in supporting students' skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Guiding Principle 10

Social and emotional learning can increase academic achievement, improve attitudes and behaviors, and reduce emotional distress. Students should practice recognizing aspects of themselves in texts (self-awareness), struggling productively with challenging texts (self-management), tailoring language to audience and purpose (social awareness), grappling vicariously with choices faced by others (responsible decision making), and collaborating respectfully with diverse peers (relationship skills).

Guiding Principle 11

Educators should select works of fiction and nonfiction that instill in students a deep appreciation for art, beauty, and truth, while broadening their understanding of the human condition from differing points of view. Reading, discussing, and writing about high-quality prose and poetry should also help students develop empathy for one another and a sense of their shared values and literary heritage, while learning about who they are as individuals and developing the capacity for independent, rigorous thinking.

MA Literacy Guide for Grades K-3

In Lexington, we approach K-5 literacy instruction as outlined by the [MA Literacy Guide](#): (1) Foundational Skills; (2) Engaging with Complex Texts; and (3) Writing. Our literacy block is designed to ensure that students are engaged in these essential components of literacy development daily.

LPS K-5 Curriculum Resources for ELA & Literacy

With the MA Literacy Guide as our compass, we use several curriculum resources to ensure that all of our K-5 students have access to the MA Curriculum Frameworks and Guiding Principles. We have expanded the Foundational Skills guidance to include Grades 4-5, and we collaborate with the K-5 Science and Social Studies Coordinators to ensure Knowledge-Building, Engaging with Complex Text, and Writing are well-aligned with the Science and Social Studies Frameworks in addition to the ELA & Literacy Frameworks.

Foundational Skills K-5	Engaging with Complex Text	Writing
Phonological Awareness ➤ K-1 Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Print Concepts, Letter Names, Phonics and Decoding, Advanced Phonics, Fluency, Morphology ➤ K-3 Foundations ➤ K-2 Revised UoS in Reading Advanced Phonics & Morphology ➤ Gr4-5 Revised Units Of Study in Writing: Spelling Modules	Choosing & Using Complex Texts, Reading for Understanding, Responding to Text ➤ K-2 Revised Units of Study in Reading with Let's Gather Interactive Read Aloud ➤ 3-5 Units of Study in Reading ➤ LPS K-5 Science and Social Studies Units	Sentence Structure & Conventions ➤ K-3 Foundations ➤ 3-5 Revised Units of Study in Writing with Grammar Units Craft of Writing, Writing Process ➤ K-2 Units of Study in Writing ➤ 3-5 Revised Units of Study in Writing with Grammar Units
Oral Language Throughout		

Workshop Framework

All K-5 LPS Teachers are trained and receive ongoing professional learning and coaching in a workshop model of literacy instruction. A workshop model is a structure that allows for the flexibility to provide differentiated, targeted small group instruction, in addition to grade-level whole-group teaching. This structure results in an inclusive learning environment that allows for teachers to determine the instructional focus best suited to their unique students. A workshop framework supports teachers in meeting the MA Guiding Principles, including 3, 5, 6, and 10, which are less likely to be met in a whole-class model of literacy instruction. More information on Workshop pedagogical structure can be found [here](#).



Grade Level ELA & Literacy Curriculum Information

- [Kindergarten](#)
- [Grade 1](#)
- [Grade 2](#)
- [Grade 3](#)
- [Grade 4](#)
- [Grade 5](#)

[Comprehensive Literacy Assessment Overview](#)