

# INTRODUCTION

The P–12 Utah State Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) were revised by Utah educators in 2022 to identify the key literacy standards necessary for Utah students to master by the end of each grade level. Some standards are mastered in previous grades. If a student has not mastered previous grade-level standards, the teacher will need to intervene in order to fill the student's skill gaps.

## Organization

The Utah State Standards are organized into **strands**, which represent significant areas of learning within content areas. In ELA, these strands are speaking and listening, reading, and writing.

Within each strand are **standards**. All standards are considered essential to master. The skills in the standards require repeated exposure with increasingly complex texts and in increasingly sophisticated contexts. Mastery is only obtained by regular practice over time.

## Shifts in the Standards

Changes in the standards were made to improve the consistency and practicality of the standards. These changes include:

- The standards were reduced, simplified, and clarified.
- Phonological Awareness was added in grades 2 and 3.
- The Reading Literature (RL) and Reading Informational (RI) standards were combined where it was most logical.
- The language strand of standards was woven throughout the speaking and listening, reading, and writing strands.
- Much like 9–10 and 11–12, 7th and 8th grade standards were banded.
- References to specific texts were removed from the standards in an effort to broaden representation and enhance local control over curricular choices.

## Speaking and Listening Strand

The following standards offer a focus for speaking and listening instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. Students develop useful interpersonal skills for the classroom and workplace by having the opportunity to listen to each other, respond appropriately, and evaluate what they hear from a variety of sources. The standards stress preparing for and participating effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations. Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and un-

derstandings mastered in preceding grades, including but not limited to, communication and interpersonal skills. Young students may master acquisition of certain speech sounds at different ages. The chart below includes the typical age of acquisition of each sound.

**Speech Development Progression Chart**  
(age in years)

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
/p/ as in pop						
/m/ as in met						
/h/ as in hot						
/n/ as in no						
/w/ as in will						
/b/ as in book						
/k/ as in cab						
/g/ as in got						
/d/ as in dock						
/t/ as in tap						
/ng/ as in sing						
	/f/ as in fill/reef					
	/y/ as in you					
	/r/ as in red					
	/l/ as in leak/hill					
	/s/ as in sun					

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		/ch/ as in chop				
		/sh/ as in shock				
		/z/ as in zoom				
		/j/ as in jump				
		/v/ as in van				
			/th/ as in think			
			/th/ as in the			
				/zh/ as in beige		

*Adapted from Sander (1972), Grunwell (1981), and Smit et al. (1990)*

### Reading Strand

The following reading standards offer a focus for reading instruction while building core knowledge and deepening comprehension. Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year’s grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades by reading increasingly complex texts throughout the grades. Texts should reflect a variety of genres, time periods, topics, perspectives, cultures, and backgrounds. Reading standards include reading literature and reading informational texts. Reading Literature is indicated with (RL) and Reading Informational with (RI).

The Reading Strand includes the foundational skills in the primary grades. These foundational skills are not an end in and of themselves. Rather, they are necessary and important components of effective, evidence-based reading instruction to develop reading proficiency with the capacity to comprehend texts across a range of types and disciplines. Some readers will need more or less practice with these foundational skills than other readers. The point is to teach students what they need to learn in order to be successful, proficient readers.

An important part of comprehensive reading instruction is that students acquire knowledge of language, particularly in using accurate academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Thus, the reading standards weave in language standards focused on vocabulary

and language comprehension. These skills will help students develop independence as readers and writers when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension.

Students must also be immersed in reading challenging, complex texts to actively make meaning, answer questions, solve problems, and craft arguments. Text complexity includes qualitative features of text and a range of texts within the quantitative grade band and associated Lexile ranges. Standard R.4 includes an asterisk to refer educators back to the Text Complexity Grade Bands and Associated Lexile Ranges below.

**Text Complexity Grade Bands and Associated Lexile Ranges**

Text Complexity Grade Band	Lexile Range
K-1	N/A
2-3	450-790
4-5	770-980
6-8	955-1155
9-10	1080-1305
11-12	1215-1355

Engaging students in deep discussions and writing of texts is imperative to their growth and development as readers. Writing and discussion of text focuses on key ideas and details, craft and structure, and integrating knowledge and ideas. Students then need to return to previously-read texts to compare with other texts and synthesize the information from multiple texts for presentations, projects, or additional writing.

**Writing Strand**

The following standards offer a focus for writing instruction to ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of writing skills and applications to address increasingly demanding content and sources. Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year’s grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades. Students’ production of writing should focus more on content and ideas rather than on length. Therefore, length requirements per grade are not included in the standards.

Students will learn to research, plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish. These skills are applicable to many types of writing such as opinion, argumentative, informative, explanatory, and narrative. The standards stress the importance of the reading-writing connection by requiring students to draw upon and

# STANDARDS: PRESCHOOL-AGE 4

## Strand 1: SPEAKING AND LISTENING (P4.SL)

Students will learn to collaborate, express and listen to ideas, integrate and evaluate information from various sources, use media and visual displays as well as language and grammar strategically to help achieve communicative purposes, and adapt to context and task.

- **Standard P4.SL.1:** Participate in conversations with peers and adults, using age-appropriate vocabulary on topics and texts.
  - a. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions such as listening to others, staying on topic, and taking turns speaking.
  - b. Follow two-step directions.
  - c. Express own ideas.
- **Standard P4.SL.2:** Speak clearly and audibly in sentences of varying lengths to communicate wants, needs, experiences, thoughts, and emotions.
- **Standard P4.SL.3:** Use age-appropriate language, grammar, volume, and pronunciation when speaking or presenting.

## Strand 2: READING (P4.R)

Students will learn to proficiently read and comprehend grade-level literature and informational text, including seminal U.S. documents of historical and literary significance, at the high end of the grade-level text complexity band, with scaffolding as needed. *\*Standard R.4 includes an asterisk to refer educators back to the Text Complexity Grade Bands and Associated Lexile Ranges in the introduction of the standards.*

- **Standard P4.R.1:** Demonstrate mastery of age-appropriate concepts of print.
  - a. Correctly hold a book and demonstrate that print is read from top to bottom, left to right, and from front to back.
  - b. Begin to identify frequently seen letters and words, recognizing that words are made up of letters.
- **Standard P4.R.2:** Demonstrate mastery of age-appropriate phonological awareness skills.
  - a. Recognize rhyming words and alliteration.
  - b. With prompting and support, segment words into syllables.

- c. Identify initial sounds in spoken language.
  - d. Identify the base parts that make up a compound word.
  - e. With prompting and support, blend and segment initial sounds of single-syllable spoken words.
  - f. With prompting and support, blend and segment single-syllable words into individual phonemes.
- **Standard P4.R.3:** Demonstrate mastery of age-appropriate phonics skills.
    - a. Identify 13 or more of the consonant names and sounds using one-to-one letter-sound correspondence (alphabetic principle).
    - b. Identify three or more vowel names and short vowel sounds using one-to-one letter-sound correspondence (alphabetic principle).
  - **Standard P4.R.4:** Begins in kindergarten.
  - **Standard P4.R.5:** With prompting and support, ask and answer questions and make connections about a text. (RL & RI)
  - **Standard P4.R.6-7:** With prompting and support, retell simple texts, including event sequence and characters. (RL & RI)
  - **Standard P4.R.8:** With prompting and support, begin to ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text. (RL & RI)
  - **Standard P4.R.9:** Begins in kindergarten.
  - **Standard P4.R.10:** Begins in grade 1.
  - **Standard P4.R.11:** Begins in grade 4.
  - **Standard P4.R.12:** Begins in grade 2.
  - **Standard P4.R.13:** Begins in grade 2.
  - **Standard P4.R.14:** Begins in grade 2.

### Strand 3: WRITING (P4.W)

Students will learn to write for a variety of tasks, purposes, and audiences using appropriate grammar/conventions, syntax, and style.

- **Standard P4.W.1:** Verbally share an opinion and visually represent that opinion using simple drawing and writing (e.g., scribble writing with letter-like formations).
- **Standard P4.W.2:** Verbally share information and visually represent that

information using simple drawing and writing (e.g., scribble writing with letter-like formations).

- **Standard P4.W.3:** Verbally share a narrative and visually represent that narrative using simple drawing and writing (e.g., scribble writing with letter-like formations).
- **Standard P4.W.4:** Participate in shared writing projects.
  - a. Recall information from experiences or learned information and share it with others.
  - b. Interact and collaborate with others.
- **Standard P4.W.5:** Print some mock letters, scribbles, or manuscript letters, including those in own name.