

About the ELA Standards

The DoDEA CCRS English Language Arts (ELA) standards are broken into four areas that address all parts of literacy. They are:

- Reading (Literary and Informational texts)
- Writing (Argumentative, Explanatory/Informative, Narrative)
- Speaking and Listening
- Language (Grammar, Vocabulary, Spelling)

The key focus of the ELA standards is that students are doing more than just understanding what is in a text. They are asked to analyze what is written, spoken, or shown and to draw conclusions that they can support with evidence.

Reading Standards

The *reading standards* are broken into two parts. The literary standards address prose fiction, poetry, and drama. The informational standards address non-fiction texts like articles, reports, speeches, and infographics. The skills in these standards ask students to understand what is in the text, how the text is constructed, and how the text compares with other texts and other mediums, such as video or audio recordings.

Writing Standards

The *writing standards* focus on three different types of writing. **Argumentative** writing asks students to take a position on a topic and argue to support that position. **Explanatory/Informative** writing requires students to present information to make a topic more clear to the intended audience. For **narrative writing**, students need to be able to write a clear narrative that tells a story (real or imagined) that engages the reader. Writing tasks can be longer (such as a research essay) or short term (such as a one-paragraph response to a question).

Speaking and Listening Standards

The *speaking and listening standards* focus on two skills. One is to have conversations with their classmates in which they share their ideas and use evidence to support those ideas. The other is to present information orally, using different types of media (such as presentations, music, video, etc.) to inform or convince an audience.

Language Standards

The *language standards* have expectations that address three areas of learning: **grammar**, **vocabulary**, and **spelling**. Students are expected to be able to use grade-level words, be able to learn new words based on how it is used in the context of the passage, and use reference materials like dictionaries and glossaries to confirm their meaning. They are also expected to correctly use and spell grade-level vocabulary. The grammar standards ask students to understand the increasingly complex tools for writing and speaking.