**LANGUAGE**

Throughout the developmental continuum in English Language Arts/Literacy and across all content areas, language is the core of understanding and comprehension. Context is key. Human understanding is founded in communication and language, and organic experiences are the most effective means of learning language skills. While the language standards are presented separately from reading, writing, speaking, and listening, they are best utilized and presented as embedded skills within the other strands. A balance must be found between direct instruction of standards, like vocabulary acquisition and spelling, and integrated instruction of standards, like vocabulary use and nuance.

These standards are not a checklist, but key components of reading, writing, speaking, and listening instruction, and they should be treated as such. Frequent, intentional reference to and instruction in these skills is essential to teaching students to be clear communicators in every medium and field.

Each language standard may contain multiple concepts, at different levels of complexity. In early adolescence and adolescence grade spans, these are best taught in order as listed, even across grade levels, to provide students with the foundational knowledge required for success as they progress, not just through school, but through life. Developing facility with the language standards is key to building comprehension and fluency with increasingly complex texts and communications.