**MAINE LEARNING RESULTS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS**

**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.

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| **Strand** | **LANGUAGE: CONVENTIONS OF STANDARD ENGLISH** | | | | | | | |
| **Standard 1** | **Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.** | | | | | | | |
| Grade | Childhood | | | | | | Early Adolescence | Adolescence |
| Kindergarten | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grades 6-8 | Grade 9-Diploma |
| Performance Expectations | 1. Use frequently occurring nouns and verbs. 2. Form regular plural nouns orally by adding /s/ or /es/ (e.g., *dog, dogs; wish, wishes*). 3. Understand and use question words (interrogatives) (e.g., *who, what, where, when, why, how*). 4. Use the most frequently occurring prepositions (e.g. to, from, in out, on off, for, of, by, with) 5. Produce and expand complete sentences in shared language activities. | 1. Use common, proper, and possessive nouns. 2. Use singular and plural nouns with matching verbs in basic sentences (e.g., *He hops; We hop*). 3. Use personal, possessive, and indefinite pronouns (e.g., *I, me, my; they, them, their; anyone, everything*). 4. Use verbs to convey a sense of past, present, and future (e.g., *Yesterday I walked home; Today I walk home; Tomorrow I will walk home*). 5. Use frequently occurring adjectives. 6. Use frequently occurring conjunctions (e.g., *and, but, or, so, because*). 7. Use determiners (e.g., *articles, demonstratives*). 8. Use frequently occurring prepositions (e.g., *during, beyond, toward*). 9. Produce and expand complete simple and compound declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in response to prompts. | 1. Use collective nouns (e.g., *group*). 2. Form and use frequently occurring irregular plural nouns (e.g., *feet, children, teeth, mice, fish*). 3. Use reflexive pronouns (e.g., *myself, ourselves*). 4. Form and use the past tense of frequently occurring irregular verbs (e.g., *sat, hid, told*). 5. Use adjectives and adverbs and choose between them depending on what is to be modified. 6. Produce, expand, and rearrange complete simple and compound sentences (e.g., *The boy watched the movie; The little boy watched the movie; The action movie was watched by the little boy*). | 1. Explain the function of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in   general and their functions in particular sentences.   1. Form and use regular and irregular plural nouns. 2. Use abstract nouns (e.g., *childhood*). 3. Form and use regular and irregular verbs. 4. Form and use the simple (e.g., *I walked; I walk; I will walk*) verb tenses. 5. Ensure subject-verb and pronoun- antecedent agreement. 6. Form and use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs, and choose   between them depending on what is to be modified.   1. Standards for Language 3 2. Use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. 3. Produce simple, compound, and complex sentences. | 1. Use relative pronouns (*who, whose, whom, which, that*) and relative adverbs (*where, when, why*). 2. Form and use the progressive (e.g., *I was walking; I am walking; I will be walking*) verb tenses. 3. Use modal auxiliaries (e.g., *can, may, must*) to convey various conditions. 4. Order adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns (e.g., *a small red bag rather than a red small bag*). 5. Form and use prepositional phrases. 6. Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons. 7. Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., *to, too, two; there, their*). | 1. Explain the function of conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections in general and their function in particular sentences. 2. Form and use the perfect (e.g., *I had walked; I have walked; I will have walked*)   verb tenses.   1. Use verb tense to convey various times, sequences, states, and conditions. 2. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense. 3. Use correlative conjunctions (e.g., *either/or, neither/nor*). | 1. Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, possessive). 2. Use intensive pronouns (e.g., *myself, ourselves*). 3. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person. 4. Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents). 5. Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language. 6. Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences. 7. Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas. 8. Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers. 9. Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences. 10. Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice. 11. Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood. 12. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood. | 1. Use parallel structure. 2. Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations. 3. Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contestable. 4. Resolve issues of complex or contested usage, consulting references as needed. |

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| **Strand** | **LANGUAGE: CONVENTIONS OF STANDARD ENGLISH** | | | | | | | |
| **Standard 2** | **Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.** | | | | | | | |
| Grade | Childhood | | | | | | Early Adolescence | Adolescence |
| Kindergarten | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grades 6-8 | Grade 9-Diploma |
| Performance Expectations | 1. Capitalize the first word in a sentence and the pronoun *I*. 2. Recognize and name end punctuation. 3. Write a letter or letters for most consonant and short-vowel sounds (phonemes). 4. Spell simple words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships. | 1. Capitalize dates and names of people. 2. Use end punctuation for sentences. 3. Use commas in dates and to separate single words in a series. 4. Use conventional spelling for words with common spelling patterns and for frequently occurring irregular words. 5. Spell untaught words phonetically, drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions. | 1. Capitalize dates and names of people. 2. Use end punctuation for sentences. 3. Use commas in dates and to separate single words in a series. 4. Use conventional spelling for words with common spelling patterns and for frequently occurring irregular words. 5. Spell untaught words phonetically, drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions. | 1. Capitalize appropriate words in titles. 2. Use commas in addresses. 3. Use commas and quotation marks in dialogue. 4. Form and use possessives. 5. Use conventional spelling for high-frequency and other studied words and for adding suffixes to base words (e.g., *sitting, smiled, cries, happiness*). 6. Use spelling patterns and generalizations (e.g., word families, position-based spellings, syllable patterns, ending rules, meaningful word parts) in writing words. 7. Consult reference materials, including beginning dictionaries, as needed to check and correct spellings. | 1. Use correct capitalization. 2. Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text. 3. Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence. 4. Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed. | 1. Use punctuation to separate items in a series. 2. Use a comma to separate an introductory element from the rest of the sentence. 3. Use a comma to set off the words *yes* and *no* (e.g., *Yes, thank you*), to set off a tag question from the rest of the sentence (e.g., *It's true, isn't it?*), and to indicate direct address (e.g., *Is that you, Steve*?). 4. Use underlining, quotation marks, or italics to indicate titles of works. 5. Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed. | 1. Spell correctly. 2. Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements. 3. Use a comma to separate coordinate adjectives (e.g., *It was a fascinating, enjoyable movie* but not *He wore an old[,] green shirt)*. 4. Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break. 5. Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission. | 1. Use a semicolon (and perhaps a conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses. 2. Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation. 3. Observe hyphenation conventions. 4. Spell correctly. |

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| **Strand** | **LANGUAGE: KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGE** | | | | | | | |
| **Standard 3** | **Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style in writing and speaking, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.** | | | | | | | |
| Grade | Childhood | | | | | | Early Adolescence | Adolescence |
| Kindergarten | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grades 6-8 | Grade 9-Diploma |
| Performance Expectations | Use knowledge of language and its conventions when speaking or listening. | Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. | Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.  a. Compare formal and informal uses of English. | Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.   1. Choose words and phrases for effect. 2. Recognize and observe differences between the conventions of spoken and written standard English. | Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.   1. Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely. 2. Choose punctuation for effect. 3. Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion). | Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.   1. Expand, combine, and reduce sentences for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style. 2. Compare and contrast the varieties of English (e.g., dialects, registers) used in stories, dramas, or poems. | 1. Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style. 2. Maintain consistency in style and tone. 3. Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy. 4. Use verbs in the active and passive voice and in the conditional and subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects (e.g., emphasizing the actor or the action; expressing uncertainty or describing a state contrary to fact). | 1. Write and edit work so that it conforms to the guidelines in a style manual appropriate for the discipline and writing task. 2. Vary syntax for effect, consulting references for guidance as needed; apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts when reading. |

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| **Strand** | **LANGUAGE: VOCABULARY ACQUISITION AND USE** | | | | | | | |
| **Standard 4** | **Use context clues, analyze meaningful word parts, and consult general and specialized reference materials as appropriate to determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases from grade level content.** | | | | | | | |
| Grade | Childhood | | | | | | Early Adolescence | Adolescence |
| Kindergarten | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grades 6-8 | Grade 9-Diploma |
| Performance Expectations | Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *kindergarten reading and content.*   1. Identify new meanings for familiar words and apply them accurately (e.g., knowing *duck* is a bird and learning the verb *to duck*). 2. Use the most frequently occurring inflections and affixes (e.g., *-ed, -s, re-, un-, pre-, -ful, -less*) as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word. | Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade 1 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.   1. Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. 2. Use frequently occurring affixes as a clue to the meaning of a word. 3. Identify frequently occurring root words (e.g., look) and their inflectional forms (e.g., *looks, looked, looking*). | Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade 2 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.   1. Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. 2. Determine the meaning of the new word formed when a known prefix is added to a known word (e.g., *happy/unhappy, tell/retell*). 3. Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., *addition, additional*). Use knowledge of the meaning of individual words to predict the meaning of compound words (e.g., *birdhouse, lighthouse, housefly; bookshelf, notebook, bookmark*). 4. Use glossaries and beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases. | Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on g*rade 3 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.   1. Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. 2. Determine the meaning of the new word formed when a known affix is added to a known word (e.g., *agreeable/disagreeable, comfortable/uncomfortable, care/careless, heat/preheat*). 3. Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., *company, companion*). 4. Use glossaries or beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases. | Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade 4 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.   1. Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. 2. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., *telegraph, photograph, autograph*). 3. Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases. | Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade 5 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.   1. Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. 2. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., *photograph, photosynthesis*). 3. Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases. | 1. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. 2. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., *audience, auditory, audible in 6th grade; belligerent, bellicose, rebel in 7th grade; precede, recede, secede in 8th grade*). 3. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses) to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech. 4. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary). | 1. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. 2. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., *conceive, conception, conceivable*). 3. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses) to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its usage. 4. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary). |

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| **Strand** | **LANGUAGE: VOCABULARY ACQUISITION AND USE** | | | | | | | |
| **Standard 5** | **Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening.** | | | | | | | |
| Grade | Childhood | | | | | | Early Adolescence | Adolescence |
| Kindergarten | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grades 6-8 | Grade 9-Diploma |
| Performance Expectations | With guidance and support from adults, explore word relationships and nuances in word meanings.   1. Sort common objects into categories (e.g., shapes, foods) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent. 2. Demonstrate understanding of frequently occurring verbs and adjectives by relating them to their opposites (antonyms). 3. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at school that are *colorful*). 4. Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs differing in manner (e.g., *look, peek, glance, stare, glare, scowl*) and adjectives differing in intensity (e.g., *large, gigantic*) by defining or choosing them or by acting out the meanings. | With guidance and support from adults, demonstrate an understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.   1. Sort words into categories (e.g., colors, clothing) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent. 2. Define words by category and by one or more key attributes (e.g., a *duck* is a bird that swims; a *tiger* is a large cat with stripes). 3. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at home that are *cozy*). 4. Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs differing in manner (e.g., *look, peek, glance, stare, glare, scowl*) and adjectives differing in intensity (e.g., *large, gigantic*) by defining or choosing them or by acting out the meanings. | Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.   1. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., describe foods that are *spicy* or *juicy*). 2. Distinguish shades of meaning among closely related verbs (e.g., *toss, throw, hurl*) and closely related adjectives (e.g., *thin, slender, skinny, scrawny*). | Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.   1. Distinguish the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g., t*ake steps*). 2. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., describe people who are *friendly* or *helpful*). 3. Distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe states of mind or degrees of certainty (e.g., *knew, believed, suspected, heard, wondered*). | Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.   1. Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., *as pretty as a picture*) in context. 2. Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs. 3. Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their opposites (antonyms) and to words with similar but not identical meanings (synonyms). | Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.   1. Interpret figurative language, including similes and metaphors, in context. 2. Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs. 3. Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonyms, antonyms, homographs) to better understand each of the words. | 1. Interpret figures of speech (e.g. personification in 6th grade; allusions in 7th grade; verbal irony, puns in 8th grade) in context. 2. Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., cause/effect, part/whole, item/category in 6th grade; synonym/antonym, analogy in 7th grade) to better understand each of the words. 3. Distinguish among the connotationsof words with similar denotations (e.g., *stingy, scrimping, economical, unwasteful, thrifty in 6th grade; refined, respectful, polite, diplomatic, condescending in 7th grade; bullheaded, willful, firm, persistent, resolute in 8th grade*). | 1. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron, hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text. 2. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations. |

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| **Strand** | **LANGUAGE: VOCABULARY ACQUISITION AND USE** | | | | | | | |
| **Standard 6** | **Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.** | | | | | | | |
| Grade | Childhood | | | | | | Early Adolescence | Adolescence |
| Kindergarten | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grades 6-8 | Grade 9-Diploma |
| Performance Expectations | Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts. | Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts, including using frequently occurring conjunctions to signal simple relationships (e.g., *because*). | Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts, including using adjectives and adverbs to describe (e.g., *When other kids are happy that makes me happy*). | Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal spatial and temporal relationships (e.g., *After dinner that night we went looking for them*). | Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., *quizzed, whined, stammered*) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., *wildlife, conservation,* and *endangered* when discussing animal preservation). | Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal contrast, addition, and other logical relationships (e.g., *however, although, nevertheless, similarly, moreover, in addition*). | Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. | Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. |