

# Meeting the Standard in Colorado

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## GRADES 3-4

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1	Use a full range of strategies to comprehend materials such as directions, nonfiction material, rhymes and poems, and stories.	Strategies can include looking up unfamiliar words in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> , which is especially written for students in grades 3, 4, and 5. It contains over 36,000 entries with multiple definitions, accompanied by over 900 colorful illustrations and diagrams. Thousands of verbal illustrations, including interesting quotations from popular children's literature, provide examples of words in context.
2	Choose vocabulary that communicates messages clearly and precisely.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has definitions, usage notes, and over 120 synonym paragraphs written in grade-level-appropriate language to help students choose words with precision.
	Revise and edit speech and writing.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> contains the words students need for spelling and pronunciation help. Usage notes and hints assist with grammar and usage. It also includes the section, "A Guide for Writers," that introduces and explains punctuation marks, formation of plurals, and use of capitalization and italics.
3	Know and use correct modifiers.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> gives all irregular comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and adverbs. Entries for troublesome modifiers give clear examples of usage.
	Know and use correct capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes "A Guide for Writers" section that introduces and explains punctuation marks, formation of plurals, and use of capitalization. Abbreviations are easy to find in the main vocabulary section.
	Spell frequently used words correctly using phonics rules and exceptions.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> provides correct spellings for more than 36,000 commonly used words, including variant spellings.
5	Use organizational features of printed text (for example, page numbering, alphabetizing, glossaries, chapter heading, tables of contents, indexes, captions).	The "Using Your Dictionary" section in the front of <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> shows students how to access the dictionary's features. The section includes a two-page color-coded "Key to Using Your Dictionary."
	Use organizational features to locate media or electronic information (for example, passwords, entry menu features, pull-down menus, icons, key word searches).	Students can look up words online on Merriam-Webster's free student Web site, <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com), which offers a student dictionary as well as a thesaurus and word games.

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## GRADES 5–8

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1	Use a full range of strategies to comprehend technical writing, newspapers, magazines, poetry, short stories, plays, and novels.	Strategies can include looking up unfamiliar words in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> , for students through grade 5, or <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> , which is especially written for students in grades 6–8, and contains nearly 70,000 entries. Both dictionaries feature up-to date vocabulary.
2	Choose vocabulary and figures of speech that communicate messages clearly and precisely.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> offers grade-level-appropriate synonyms, antonyms, related and contrasted words, and idioms. It provides an example sentence to illustrate each word in its synonym lists. Used in conjunction with <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> , it can help students choose the words they need to communicate clearly.
	Draft, revise, edit, and proofread for a legible final copy.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes "A Handbook of Style" section that explains the use of punctuation marks and capitalization. Students might also refer to <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> , and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> .
	Write and speak in the content areas (for example, science, geography, history, literature), using the technical vocabulary of the subject accurately.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> , with its up-to-date content and examples that show how words are used, can help students understand and accurately select terms from science, geography, history, and literature. Students can also use <i>Merriam-Webster's Student Atlas</i> , which has a glossary of geographical terms.
3	Identify the parts of speech such as nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> gives a part-of-speech label for every entry. It has separate numbered entries for homographs, making it easier for students to understand how words function as different parts of speech. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> contains articles that deal with difficult usage and grammar issues for all parts of speech.
	Use correct pronoun case, regular and irregular noun and verb forms, and subject-verb agreement involving comparisons in writing and speaking.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> gives all irregular plurals of nouns and all irregular verb forms. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> contains brief discussions of more than a thousand sticky language issues, including subject/verb agreement. A grammar glossary in the back directs students to the usage entries that address each grammar subject.
	Use modifiers, homonyms, and homophones in writing and speaking.	Usage examples in <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> can help students use modifiers correctly, and entries for adjectives and adverbs give all irregular comparative and superlative forms. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> contains a Words Often Confused section, with examples of their correct use.

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## GRADES 5–8, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
3, <i>continued</i>	Use simple, compound, complex, and compound/complex sentences in writing and speaking.	Students can get help writing compound, complex, and compound/complex sentences from <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> , which includes an introduction to sentence construction. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> also includes "A Handbook of Style" section that explains the use of punctuation marks and capitalization. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> provide students with guidance on how to correctly punctuate sentences.
	Punctuate and capitalize titles and direct quotations, use possessives, and correctly paragraph in writing.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes "A Handbook of Style" section that explains the use of punctuation marks and capitalization. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> have chapters on the use of punctuation marks and capitalization.
	Use prefixes, root words, and suffixes correctly in writing and speaking.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> has lists of common roots, prefixes, and suffixes, along with examples of words that contain them.
	Expand spelling skills to include more complex words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) is a free student Web site that offers grade-level-appropriate games that help with spelling skills. Students can also use <i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> to expand their spelling skills. It introduces 3,500 words built from 250 of the most productive Greek and Latin roots, and includes quizzes to test progress and reward study.
	Use resources such as spell checkers, dictionaries, and charts to monitor spelling accuracy.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> provides correct spellings for nearly 70,000 words, including geographical names, names of historic figures, and abbreviations.
5	Use available technology to research and produce an end-product that is accurately documented; give credit for borrowed information in a bibliography.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> have bibliography chapters that give information on citing all types of sources, including online and electronic sources.

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## GRADES 9–12

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1	Use a full range of strategies to comprehend essays, speeches, autobiographies, and first-person historical documents.	Strategies can include looking up unfamiliar words in <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , especially written for high-school students, with more than 100,000 entries.
	<p><i>For students extending their English/Language Arts education beyond the standards—</i></p> <p>Use a full range of strategies to comprehend literary criticism and literary analysis, professional and technical journals, and professional-level reading materials that match their career or academic interests.</p>	<p><i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary, Eleventh Edition</i> is a 225,000-definition dictionary designed to support college-bound high-school students as they read a variety of texts. <i>Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged</i> includes nearly 500,000 entries and is designed to support the widest range of reading. Students can also use <i>Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Law</i> when they need a more specialized lexicon.</p>
2	Use fictional, dramatic, and poetic techniques in writing.	Students who want to use rhyming techniques will enjoy the alphabetical listing of rhyming sounds in <i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Rhyming Dictionary</i> .
	Select a focused topic and draft, revise, edit, and proofread a legible final copy.	Merriam-Webster offers a wealth of up-to-date, reliable reference materials for students to consult as they write, revise, and edit. In addition to <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> , students might also refer to <i>Merriam-Webster's School Thesaurus</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus</i> . They can also use <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> for proofreading help. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> have comprehensive articles and practical advice on thousands of word usage and grammar construction issues.
	Write in various specialized fields such as career and academic interest areas (for example, scientific, technical, business communications).	<p><i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> offer up-to-date vocabulary, and can help students correctly use the terms they need for scientific and technical reports and for business communications. Students can also use <i>Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Law</i> when they need a specialized lexicon.</p>

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## GRADES 9–12, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
2, <i>continued</i>	<p><i>For students extending their English/Language Arts education beyond these standards—</i></p> <p>Use style books or technical manuals to become self-evaluators of [own] writing.</p>	<p><i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Handbook for Writers</i> can serve as a style manual that lets students evaluate their writing in comparison to well-established professional standards.</p>
3	Use pronoun reference correctly in writing and speaking.	<p><i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> has brief, helpful discussions of correct pronoun use. <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> goes into even more detail.</p>
	Use internal capitalization and punctuation of secondary quotations in writing.	<p><i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i>, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Handbook for Writers</i> give students the guidance they need for using punctuation correctly in quotations.</p>
	Use manuscript forms specified in various style manuals for writing (for example, indenting for extended quotations, precise placement and form of page numbers, appropriate line spacing).	<p>Students can use <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i>, <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i>, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Handbook for Writers</i> for comprehensive guidance when incorporating quotations into text.</p>
	Refine spelling and grammatical skills and becoming a self-evaluator of [own] writing and speaking.	<p>Students can check <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> for quick answers about common grammar problems and <i>Webster's Instant Word Guide</i>, which has a list of 35,000 words, for spelling help.</p>
5	Use available technology to access information, conduct research, and produce a carefully documented product.	<p><i>Merriam-Webster OnLine</i> (Merriam-Webster.com) gives students free access to the full text of <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> (225,000 definitions) to support all kinds of online research. <i>Merriam-Webster Unabridged</i> is a subscription Website offering access to Merriam-Webster's unabridged dictionary, <i>Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged</i>, as well as a suite of other reference products.</p>
	<p><i>For students extending their English/ Language Arts education beyond the standards—</i></p> <p>Give precise, formal credit for others' ideas, images, or information.</p>	<p><i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Handbook for Writers</i> provide the rules for citing sources that can be readily applied to a variety of style manuals or authorities and offer in-depth coverage of the conventions for documentation of sources, including nonprint sources and unpublished materials.</p>