

Meeting the Standard in Illinois

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EARLY ELEMENTARY

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.A.1a	Apply word analysis skills (e.g., phonics, word patterns) to recognize words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> help provide students with a strong footing in phonics. Entertaining poems and illustrations describe and demonstrate the sound-letter correspondences of each letter of the alphabet and introduce students not only to words that begin and end with that letter, but words that contain it in the middle as well.
1.A.1b	Comprehend unfamiliar words using context clues and prior knowledge; verify meanings with resource materials.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> includes hundreds of pictures and simple explanations and example sentences to help students understand words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> gives more advanced students a way to look up a broader range of unfamiliar words.
1.B.1b	Identify genres (forms and purposes) of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and electronic forms.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> gives students samples of fiction (with little stories), nonfiction (with explanations of word meanings, word histories, and other information) and poetry (with simple rhymes and poems).
1.C.1e	Identify how authors and illustrators express their ideas in text and graphics (e.g., dialogue, conflict, shape, color, characters).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> incorporates many visual clues into its text: letters of the alphabet are in yellow, words that begin with each letter in red, and example sentences in blue; there are ample illustrations; and icons indicate various features such as synonyms and word histories.
2.A.1c	Describe differences between prose and poetry.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> have rhyming poems, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> juxtaposes those poems with prose.
3.A.1	Construct complete sentences which demonstrate subject/verb agreement; appropriate capitalization and punctuation; correct spelling of appropriate, high-frequency words; and appropriate use of the eight parts of speech.	Frequent exposure to <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> familiarizes students with the rules of capitalization and basic punctuation with lively and readable example sentences, riddles, jokes, and stories. It polishes students' spelling skills as students see featured words repeated several times at every entry. Entries introduce students to parts of speech.
3.B.1a	Use prewriting strategies to generate and organize ideas; ...use descriptive words when writing about people, places, things, and events.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> offers descriptive word choices: many entries give short lists of synonyms; some show words that describe an entry word (e.g., at cactus : <i>prickly, sun-loving</i>), and others give lists of more specific word choices (e.g., the words for parts of a leg at leg).
5.A.1b	Locate information using a variety of sources.	Students who are encouraged to use <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> will gain valuable dictionary skills, since it has many of the features of a basic dictionary. <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes all basic dictionary features.

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LATE ELEMENTARY

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.A.2a	Read and comprehend unfamiliar words using root words, synonyms, antonyms, word origins, and derivations.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> features more than 100 synonym paragraphs that explain slight differences among closely related words. The dictionary also introduces students to 250 word origins with its Word History paragraphs. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> has a list of common roots with their meanings.
1.A.2b	Clarify word meaning using context clues and a variety of resources including glossaries, dictionaries, and thesauruses.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has grade-level-appropriate definitions for over 32,000 words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> is a thesaurus based on a student-level vocabulary, and features brief definitions for shared meaning and a usage example for every synonym. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> is a compendium of synonyms, related words, and antonyms for student use. <i>Merriam-Webster's How to Use Your Dictionary</i> gives grade-level-appropriate instruction in how to use both a dictionary and a thesaurus, and includes games, puzzles, and quizzes.
1.B.2c	Continuously check and clarify for understanding (e.g., ... clarify terminology, seek additional information).	Students ready for a bigger dictionary can go to <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> , with 70,000 words. Or they can use the free online student dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com).
1.C.2f	Connect information presented in tables, maps, and charts to printed or electronic text.	Students can use <i>Merriam-Webster's Student Atlas</i> , a colorful world atlas with full-color maps and charts and geographical information.
3.A.2	Write paragraphs that include a variety of sentence types; appropriate use of the eight parts of speech; and accurate spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.	Frequent use of <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> familiarizes students with parts of speech. The dictionary provides correct spellings for more than 32,000 commonly used words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> provides help to students for punctuation and capitalization rules.
3.B.2c	Expand ideas by using modifiers, subordination, and standard paragraph organization.	Students can help expand their ideas by using more descriptive terms from <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> .
3.B.2d	Edit documents for...pronoun-antecedent agreement and verb tense; proofread for spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.	Entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> show all irregular forms of verbs. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> includes a section on proofreading with proofreader's marks and a list of common errors.
3.C.2a	Write for a variety of purposes and for specified audiences in a variety of forms including narrative and persuasive writings.	Students encouraged to use <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> in the writing process to look up words and check spelling and usage will gain valuable dictionary skills.
4.B.2a	Present oral reports to an audience using correct language and nonverbal expressions for the intended purpose and message.	Students can make sure they are using correct pronunciations with <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> or can listen to audio pronunciations in the free student dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com).

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MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.A.3a	Apply knowledge of word origins and derivations to comprehend words used in specific content areas (e.g., scientific, political, literary, mathematical).	Regular use of <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> exposes students to nearly 3,000 etymologies giving the roots and origins of words. The dictionary also offers nearly 300 expanded word history paragraphs. <i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> introduces students to 200 of the most productive Greek and Latin roots, as well as 200 more words derived from classical mythology or history. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Allusions</i> offers the stories behind the word, including terms from mythology, history, politics, science, with examples of modern-day usage. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> has a list of common roots with their meanings.
1.A.3b	Analyze the meaning of words and phrases in their context.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> gives multiple definitions, where appropriate, and helps students determine the meaning used in a given context. <i>Merriam-Webster's How to Use Your Dictionary</i> explains all the aspects of a dictionary entry so students can get the most out of looking up words.
1.B.3c	Continuously check and clarify for understanding.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> has grade-level-appropriate definitions for nearly 70,000 words. Students who need a larger dictionary can go to <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , with more than 85,000 words. Students can also use the free online student dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com).
1.C.3f	Interpret tables that display textual information and data in visual formats.	Students can use <i>Merriam-Webster's Student Atlas</i> , a world atlas with a variety of charts with geographical information of all sorts.
2.A.3a	Identify and analyze a variety of literary techniques (e.g., figurative language, allusion...) within classical and contemporary works representing a variety of genres.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> contains literary terms, from <i>alliteration</i> to <i>simile</i> , that students in the middle-school years will encounter. Many definitions include examples. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Allusions</i> can help students identify more than 900 allusive references.
3.A.3	Write compositions that contain complete sentences and effective paragraphs using English conventions.	Students can get the help they need with <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> , which have information on punctuation and capitalization and other styling conventions and also contain sections on word usage; from <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> , which provides ready assistance with punctuation and capitalization and gives examples that illustrate the rules; and from <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> , which contains brief discussions of common usage problems.
3.B.3b	Edit and revise for word choice, organization, consistent points of view, and transitions among paragraphs.	To refine their word choice, students can refer to <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> , which offers thousands of synonyms and related words, with an example sentence for every synonym, and is based on the vocabulary in <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> ; <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> , which provides combined dictionary entries and synonym lists; <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> , a handy compendium of synonyms, related words, and antonyms; <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Synonyms</i> , which contain brief explanations that help students distinguish slight differences between synonyms.

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MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
3.C.3a	Compose narrative, informative, and persuasive writings for a specified audience.	Students encouraged to use <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> in the writing process to look up words and check spelling and usage will hone valuable dictionary skills.
4.B.3a	Deliver planned oral presentations, using vocabulary appropriate to purpose, message, and audience.	Students can make sure they are using correct pronunciations by looking up words in <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , or by listening to audio pronunciations on the free student dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com).
5.B.3b	[Choose and analyze information sources.] Cite sources used.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> has a section on the basics of creating notes and bibliographies. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> offers the same information, in a different format.

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EARLY HIGH SCHOOL

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.A.4a	Expand knowledge of word origins and derivations and use idioms, analogies, metaphors, and similes to extend vocabulary development.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> introduces students to hundreds of words derived from the most productive Greek and Latin roots, and it features dozens of Greek and Latin borrowings and words from classical mythology and history. Every entry discusses several words derived from the same root, with definitions, pronunciations, sample sentences, and brief word histories, and introduces more with short quizzes. <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> offers nearly 20,000 concise etymologies and nearly 300 expanded word history paragraphs. It also gives the meanings of nearly 1,000 idioms.
1.A.4b	Compare the meanings of words and phrases and use analogies to explain the relationships among them.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> gives an example sentence for every word in its synonym lists so students can distinguish slight differences between synonyms. With its lists of synonyms, antonyms, related words, and idioms, it can provide students with the vocabulary they need to convey ideas via comparison and analogy. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Synonyms</i> contain brief explanations that help students understand how even closely related words differ.
1.B.4c	Read age-appropriate material with fluency and accuracy.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> has grade-level-appropriate definitions for nearly 85,000 words to help students understand words encountered in a wide variety of sources. Students who need a larger dictionary can go to <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> , which has over 165,000 words. Students can also use the free dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster OnLine</i> (Merriam-Webster.com).
1.C.4f	Interpret tables, graphs, and maps in conjunction with related text.	Students can improve their interpretation skills with <i>Merriam-Webster's Student Atlas</i> , a world atlas with full-color thematic maps and a wide variety of charts and graphs.
2.A.4a	Analyze and evaluate the effective use of literary techniques (e.g., figurative language, allusion...) in classic and contemporary literature.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> contains the literary terms, from <i>alliteration</i> to <i>whodunit</i> , that students in the middle-school years will encounter. Many definitions include examples.
3.A.4	Use standard English to edit documents for clarity, subject/verb agreement, adverb and adjective agreement, and verb tense; proofread for spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> provide the information students need on punctuation and capitalization and other styling conventions, as well as sections on word usage. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> provides assistance with punctuation and capitalization. <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> provides guidance with confusing grammar issues. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> contains similar but shorter entries. <i>Webster's Instant Word Guide</i> is a handy guide to the spelling and end-of-line divisions of 35,000 words.
3.B.4c	Evaluate written work for its effectiveness and make recommendations for its improvement.	Students looking for a better word or phrase can refer to <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's School Thesaurus</i> , which offer thousands of synonyms and related words; to <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> , which provides combined dictionary entries and synonym lists; and to <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> , a handy compendium of synonyms and related words.

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EARLY HIGH SCHOOL, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
3.C.4a	Write for real or potentially real situations in academic, professional, and civic contexts.	Students can get vocabulary and spelling help for accurate writing from <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , written especially for high-school students. They can get help as well with styling conventions from the Handbook of Style section.
4.B.4a	Deliver planned informative and persuasive oral presentations...; demonstrate organization, clarity, [and appropriate] vocabulary.	Students can make sure they are using correct vocabulary and pronunciations in oral presentations by looking up words in <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> , or in the free dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster OnLine</i> (Merriam-Webster.com), which offers audio pronunciations.
5.B.4b	Use multiple sources and multiple formats; cite according to standard style manuals.	Students can use <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Handbook for Writers</i> , which have chapters on bibliographies that show how to list all kinds of sources, including articles, government publications, online sources, and unpublished materials. Students can also use the handy <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> , which have sections on citing references and creating bibliographies.

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LATE HIGH SCHOOL

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
1.A.5a	Identify and analyze new terminology applying knowledge of word origins and derivations in a variety of practical settings.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> introduces students to 3,000 words in all, with entries organized by roots, and quizzes to test progress and reward study (and is a great help for students preparing for college-entrance tests). <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> offer thousands of concise etymologies. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Allusions</i> can help students identify more than 900 allusive references.
1.A.5b	Analyze the meaning of abstract concepts and the effects of particular word and phrase choices.	<i>The Merriam-Webster Thesaurus</i> , with its example sentences for every synonym, effectively demonstrates subtle differences among related words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Synonyms</i> contain brief explanations that help students understand how even closely related words can differ in connotation. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms</i> explains in greater detail discriminations between related words, with numerous example phrases and illustrative quotations.
1.B.5d	Read age-appropriate material with fluency and accuracy.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> includes more than 85,000 entries and more than 100,000 definitions to help students comprehend grade-level-appropriate material. <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> includes more than 165,000 entries and 225,000 definitions, and supports reading across a wide variety of types of text, both classic and contemporary. <i>Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged</i> , includes nearly 500,000 entries and is designed to support the widest range of reading.
3.A.5	Produce grammatically correct documents using standard manuscript specifications for a variety of purposes and audiences.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> , and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> provide the information students need on punctuation and capitalization and other styling conventions, as well as sections on grammar and usage. <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> provide guidance with confusing grammar issues. <i>Webster's Instant Word Guide</i> is a handy guide to the spelling and end-of-line divisions of 35,000 words.
3.B.5	Using contemporary technology, produce documents of publication quality for specific purposes and audiences.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Manual for Writers & Editors</i> is a clear guide to effective writing and formatting for publishing with desktop publishing technology.
3.C.5a	Communicate information and ideas in narrative, informative, and persuasive writing with clarity and effectiveness in a variety of written forms using appropriate traditional and/or electronic formats; adapt content, vocabulary, voice, and tone to the audience, purpose, and situation.	Students looking for a better word or phrase to improve their writing can refer to <i>The Merriam-Webster Thesaurus</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's School Thesaurus</i> , or <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus</i> , with their thousands of synonyms and related words presented under shared meaning cores. They can use these references in conjunction with <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> to further understand a word's applications. Or they can use <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> , a single reference with combined dictionary entries and synonym lists, or <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> , a compendium of synonyms and related words.

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LATE HIGH SCHOOL, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
3.C.5b	Write for real or potentially real situations in academic, professional, and civic contexts.	Students can get the vocabulary and spelling help they need for accurate writing from <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , written especially for high-school students, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> , ideal for college-bound students. They can get help as well with styling conventions, from the Handbook of Style sections in the back of either book.
4.B.5a	Deliver planned and impromptu oral presentations, as individuals or members of a group, conveying results of research, projects, or literature studies to a variety of audiences.	Students can make sure they are using correct vocabulary and pronunciations in oral presentations by looking up words in <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> , or on the free dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster Online</i> (Merriam-Webster.com), which even offers audio pronunciations.
5.B.5b	Credit primary and secondary sources in a form appropriate for presentation for publication for a particular audience.	Students can use <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Handbook for Writers</i> , or <i>Merriam-Webster's Manual for Writers & Editors</i> , which have chapters on bibliographies that shows how to list all kinds of sources, including articles, government publications, online sources, and unpublished materials. Students can also use <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> , which have sections on citing references and creating bibliographies.