

Meeting the Standard in Minnesota

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Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
I.A. Word Recognition, Analysis, and Fluency Benchmark 1	See, hear, say, and write the basic sounds (phonemes) of the English language.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> describes and demonstrates the sounds of each letter with entertaining alphabet poems and vivid illustrations.
I.A. Word Recognition, Analysis, and Fluency Benchmark 3	Identify and name uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet.	The illustrations in <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> feature big, bold, and colorful uppercase and lowercase letters.
I.A. Word Recognition, Analysis, and Fluency Benchmark 5	Identify, produce, and say rhyming sounds in response to an oral prompt.	The rhymes in <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> offer opportunities for student participation and response.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmarks 1-3	Use words to describe and name people, places, and things... location, size, color, shape, and direction... [and] actions.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> , especially written for students in grades K-2, introduces students to all the different ways words are used with explanations that are easy for very young students to understand.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 4	Use context to predict and infer meanings.	Entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> are written to offer students opportunities for new vocabulary acquisition from context. At each entry, word meanings are carefully explained by demonstrating them in context in complete sentences.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 5	Learn new words through explicit instruction.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> , with nearly 1,000 entries filled with things to know about words, makes vocabulary-building fun and exposes students to nearly 3,000 words in all.
III.A. Speaking and Listening Benchmark 5	Recite and respond to poems, rhymes, and songs.	The lively alphabet rhymes in <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> offer opportunities for student participation and response. <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> includes original and classic rhymes and verses that provide inspiration for students' own creativity.

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GRADE ONE

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
I.A. Word Recognition, Analysis, and Fluency Benchmark 1	Identify letters, words, and sentences.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> is a visually attractive dictionary designed for students in grades K–2. To aid in identification, it shows the letters of the alphabet in yellow, words that begin with each letter in red, and short sentences that are built around those words in blue.
I.A. Word Recognition, Analysis, and Fluency Benchmark 3	See, hear, say, and write the letters, blends, and digraphs that correspond with the common sounds of the English language.	The alphabet poems in <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> describe and demonstrate the sounds of each letter and feature consonants in blends and digraphs as well.
I.A. Word Recognition, Analysis, and Fluency Benchmark 4	Segment and blend beginning, middle, and ending sounds (phonemes) to read unfamiliar words.	The rhymes in <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> use words that have the featured letter sounds not only at the beginning, but in the middle or end of a word as well.
I.A. Word Recognition, Analysis, and Fluency Benchmark 6	Use letter sounds, word patterns, and parts of simple and compound words to decode unfamiliar words when reading.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> , especially written for students in grades K–2, can help students with decoding skills. Many entries show inflected forms, words formed with prefixes and suffixes, or compound words formed from entry words.
I.A. Word Recognition, Analysis, and Fluency Benchmark 7	Generate rhyming words in a rhyming pattern.	The rhymes in <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> offer opportunities for student participation and response.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 1	Learn new words through explicit instruction.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> , with nearly 1,000 entries, introduces students to nearly 3,000 words through examples, short word histories, little stories, riddles, poems, and jokes that make vocabulary-building fun.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 2	Use descriptive words when speaking of people, places, things, actions, and events.	Many entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> offer suggestions for descriptive terms (such as words to describe a cactus) or for alternate choices that are more descriptive (such as words for different kinds of footwear at the entry for <i>shoe</i>).

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GRADE ONE, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 3	Identify and generate antonyms and synonyms, and use them to understand and express word meaning.	Many entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> include information about synonyms, antonyms, and related words (such as words for different bird sounds at the entry for <i>caw</i>).
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 4	Use context to predict and infer meanings.	Entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> offer students opportunities for new vocabulary acquisition. At each entry, word meanings are carefully explained by demonstrating them in context in complete sentences.
I.D. Literature Benchmark 6	Understand the role of illustrations in conveying meaning in picture books.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> has thousands of clearly rendered illustrations by acclaimed children's artist Ruth Heller that help students understand word meanings and concepts (for example a picture of a child in a tidy bedroom at the entry for <i>neat</i>).
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 7	Spell grade-appropriate words correctly in final draft.	In addition to 1,000 A-Z entries, <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> includes supplementary lists of common words to help students prepare final drafts.
II.D. Research Benchmark 1	Use grade level appropriate reference material to obtain information.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> offers lively explanations and examples, short word histories, little stories, riddles, poems, and jokes for fun and informative listening and reading.
II.D. Research Benchmark 2	Alphabetize by first letter.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> shows the entire alphabet in lower case across the top of every two-page spread to help students with alphabetization.
III.A. Speaking and Listening Benchmark 5	Recite and respond to stories, poems, rhymes, and songs with expression.	The lively alphabet rhymes in <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> offer opportunities for student participation and response. <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> includes original and classic rhymes and verses that provide inspiration for students' own creativity.

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GRADE TWO

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
I.A. Word Recognition, Analysis, and Fluency Benchmark 1	Use word structure and phonics knowledge (including consonants, blends, digraphs, and vowel combinations) to decode words.	The alphabet poems in <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> describe and demonstrate the sounds of each letter and feature consonants in blends and digraphs as well.
I.A. Word Recognition, Analysis, and Fluency Benchmark 2	Identify individual word parts to decode and determine the meaning of compound and multi-syllabic words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> , especially written for students in grades K–2, can help students with decoding skills. Many entries show inflected forms, prefixes and suffixes, or compound words formed from entry words.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 1	Learn and use new words through explicit instruction and independent reading.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> , with nearly 1,000 entries, introduces students to nearly 3,000 words through examples, short word histories, little stories, riddles, poems, and jokes that make vocabulary-building fun.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 2	Use a growing range of descriptive words when speaking of people, places, things, actions, and events.	Many entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> offer suggestions for descriptive terms (such as words to describe a fox) or for alternate choices that are more specific (such as words for different kinds of shoes).
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 4	Identify prefixes and suffixes.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> introduces students to common prefixes and suffixes and how they change word meanings.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 5	Generate and use antonyms, synonyms, and multiple-meaning words to express meaning.	Many entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> include information about synonyms, antonyms, and multiple meanings of words (for example, the senses of a <i>high</i> sound, a <i>high</i> price, <i>high</i> waves, and <i>high</i> winds).

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GRADE TWO, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 6	Use a grade-appropriate dictionary or glossary to locate meaning.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> , designed especially for students in grades K–2, offers students more than a way to look up words they don't recognize: every entry features lots of information about words—examples of use, synonyms, antonyms, and related words, odd language facts, word histories, and much more. More advanced students may want to use <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> with its greatly expanded vocabulary and more formal entries.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmarks 1-2	Identify and correctly use nouns, verbs, and pronouns. Identify and correctly use descriptive words such as adjectives and adverbs.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> introduces students to the concept of parts of speech; not only are entries labeled as nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc., but many entries show and explain the entry word as more than one part of speech (for example, <i>garden</i> as a noun and a verb). In addition, a separate "Word Functions" section explains and illustrates the functions of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and interjections.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 7	Spell grade-appropriate words correctly in final draft.	In addition to its main A–Z section, <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> also includes lists of tricky spelling words with examples of use.
III.A. Speaking and Listening Benchmark 6	Recite and respond to stories, poems, rhymes, and songs with expression.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> includes original and classic rhymes and verses that provide inspiration for students' own creativity.
III.B. Viewing Benchmark 2	Understand that different types of books, such as fiction, nonfiction, and reference material, have different purposes.	Students can learn about the dictionary as reference in the "Here's How To Use Your Dictionary" section in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> which uses example pages to show students the different features of the dictionary.

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GRADE THREE

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 1	Acquire, understand, and use new vocabulary through explicit instruction and independent reading.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> can support independent reading for vocabulary acquisition. In addition, the nearly 1,300 quotations from classic and contemporary children's literature in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> encourage interest in reading. A list of quoted works can be used by students, parents, and teachers as a source of recommended books.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 2	Identify and correctly use antonyms, synonyms, homonyms, and multiple-meaning words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes 36,000 entries. Definitions feature multiple meanings with thousands of usage examples to help students differentiate between meanings. Many entries include quotations from classic and contemporary children's literature to illustrate meanings and enrich students' understanding of words. The dictionary also features more than 120 synonym paragraphs that explain slight differences among closely related words.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 4	Use knowledge of prefixes and suffixes to determine meaning of unknown words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has entries for common prefixes and suffixes as well as words formed with them.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 6	Use dictionaries and glossaries to understand the meaning of new words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> is written especially for students in grades 3–5. It contains over 36,000 entries that include multiple definitions for words and thousands of usage examples, all accompanied by 900 full-color photographs and illustrations. The dictionary includes an easy-to-follow "Using Your Dictionary" section.
II.B. Elements of Composition Benchmark 2c	Use revising — improving the quality of content, organization, sentence structure, and word choice.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has grade-level-appropriate definitions, usage examples, and synonym paragraphs to help students with word choice as they write and revise.
II.B. Elements of Composition Benchmark 2d	Use editing — correcting errors in spelling and grammar.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> contains the words students will need to look up for spelling. Usage notes and hints help with grammar and usage. Grade-level-appropriate definitions clarify standard use of commonly confused words. "A Guide for Writers" section introduces and explains punctuation marks, the formation of plurals, and the use of capitalization and italics.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmarks 5a-d	Apply grammar conventions correctly in writing, including: nouns, verbs, adjectives, and pronouns.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has the information students need to use nouns, verbs, adjectives, and pronouns correctly. It gives all irregular plurals of nouns, irregular verb tenses, and comparative and superlative forms of adjectives. Entries for articles and pronouns have examples of usage.
II.D. Research Benchmark 1	Use grade-level appropriate reference materials to obtain information from dictionaries, glossaries, encyclopedias, and the Internet.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> is written especially for students in grades 3–5. It contains over 36,000 entries that include part-of-speech labels, simple pronunciation, syllabication, word root and word history paragraphs, multiple definitions for words, synonym paragraphs, and more, all accompanied by 900 full-color photographs, illustrations, and diagrams. WordCentral.com is a free website with a student dictionary and thesaurus.

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GRADE FOUR

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 2	Identify and understand root words, derivations, antonyms, synonyms, idioms, homonyms, and multiple-meaning words to determine word meanings and to comprehend texts.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes over 36,000 entries written especially for students in grades 3–5. It has 250 word history paragraphs and word root paragraphs that introduce students to roots and word origins. The dictionary also contains more than 120 synonym paragraphs that explain slight differences among closely related words.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 3	Use dictionaries and glossaries to find the meaning of new words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> is written especially for students in grades 3–5. It contains over 36,000 entries that include multiple definitions for words and thousands of usage examples, all accompanied by 900 full-color photographs and illustrations. The dictionary includes an easy-to-follow "Using Your Dictionary" section.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 5	Use knowledge of prefixes and suffixes to determine meaning of unknown words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has entries for common prefixes and suffixes as well as words formed with them.
II.B. Elements of Composition Benchmark 3c	Use revising — improving the quality of content, organization, sentence structure, and word choice.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has grade-level-appropriate definitions, usage examples, and synonym paragraphs to help students with word choice as they write and revise.
II.B. Elements of Composition Benchmark 3d	Use editing — correcting errors in spelling and grammar.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> contains the words students will need to look up for spelling. Usage notes and hints help with grammar and usage. Grade-level-appropriate definitions clarify standard use of commonly confused words. "A Guide for Writers" section introduces and explains punctuation marks, the formation of plurals, and the use of capitalization and italics.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 2	Identify and correct spelling of frequently used words and common homophones.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> provides usage examples that help students use homographs and homophones correctly. The dictionary provides extra help with some common homophones, such as <i>there</i> , <i>their</i> , and <i>they're</i> . <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> features a list of often-confused homophones and their meanings.

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GRADE FOUR, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmarks 4a-e	Apply grammar conventions correctly in writing, including: verb tense, adverbs, prepositions, subject and verb agreement, and possessive pronouns.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> can help students with grammar. It gives all irregularly formed verb tenses, and it gives comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and those adverbs formed in some way other than with <i>more</i> or <i>most</i> . Entries for adverbs, prepositions, and possessive pronouns include examples of usage.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmarks 5b-c	Apply punctuation conventions correctly in writing, including capitalization of proper nouns and abbreviations.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes "A Guide for Writers" section that introduces and explains the use of capitalization and italics.
II.D. Research Benchmark 1	Locate information in various reference materials including dictionaries, online dictionaries, glossaries, encyclopedias, and other resources on the Internet.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> is written especially for students in grades 3–5. It contains over 36,000 entries that include part-of-speech labels, simple pronunciation, syllabication, word root and word history paragraphs, multiple definitions for words, synonym paragraphs, and more, all accompanied by 900 full-color illustrations and diagrams. WordCentral.com is a free website with a student dictionary and thesaurus.
III.A Speaking and Listening Benchmark 5	Perform expressive oral readings of prose, poetry, or drama.	Students can make sure they are pronouncing and using words correctly for oral presentations by looking them up in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and using the simple pronunciation symbols. In addition, the free student dictionary at WordCentral.com includes audio pronunciations.

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GRADE FIVE

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 2	Use knowledge of root words, derivations, antonyms, synonyms, idioms, homonyms, and multiple-meaning words to determine word meanings and to understand texts.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes over 36,000 entries written especially for students in grades 3–5. It has 250 word history paragraphs and word root paragraphs that introduce students to roots and word origins. The dictionary also contains more than 120 synonym paragraphs that explain slight differences among closely related words. Students can expand their understanding of roots, synonyms, and antonyms with <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> which has a list of 80 common Greek and Latin roots with their meanings as well as full synonym and antonym lists for thousands of words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes entries for hundreds of idioms and expressions that students might encounter in their reading.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 3	Use word reference materials, such as dictionaries and thesauruses, to understand and express word meaning.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> is written especially for students in grades 3–5. It contains over 36,000 entries that include part-of-speech labels, simple pronunciation, syllabication, word root and word history paragraphs, multiple definitions for words, synonym paragraphs, and more, all accompanied by 900 full-color illustrations and diagrams. More advanced students may want to use <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> , which has nearly 70,000 entries. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> lists words under a shared meaning core and provides an example sentence to illustrate every word in its synonym lists. WordCentral.com is a free website with a student dictionary and thesaurus.
II.B. Elements of Composition Benchmark 3c	Use revising — improving the quality of content, organization, sentence structure, and word choice.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has grade-level-appropriate definitions, usage examples, and synonym paragraphs to help students with word choice as they write and revise.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 2	Edit written documents for correct spelling.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> provides correct spellings for more than 36,000 commonly used words, including many proper nouns, variant spellings, and open, closed, and hyphenated compounds. Students can use the special geographical names section to find and check spelling of hundreds of place-names.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmarks 4a-e	Apply grammar conventions correctly in writing, including: verb tense, prepositional phrases, adverbs, subject and verb agreement with simple subjects, possessive pronouns, and plural possessives.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> can help students with grammar. It gives all irregularly formed verb tenses, and it gives comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and some adverbs. Entries for adverbs, prepositions, and possessive pronouns include examples of usage. "A Guide for Writers" section gives guidance on forming possessives. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> , designed especially for students in grades 5 and up, also gives guidance on correctly forming plural possessives.

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GRADE FIVE, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmarks 5a-f	Apply punctuation conventions correctly in writing, including: apostrophes, capitalization of proper nouns, abbreviations, sentence beginnings, commas, and quotation marks.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes "A Guide for Writers" section that introduces and explains punctuation marks, the formation of plurals, and the use of capitalization and italics. Common abbreviations are entered at their own place in the A-Z section of the dictionary. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> presents the rules for punctuation clearly with abundant examples of correct use.
II.D. Research Benchmark 1	Locate and keep notes on the information in various reference materials including print and online dictionaries.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> is the ideal word reference for students at this grade level. They can also use the free online student dictionary and thesaurus on WordCentral.com .
II.D. Research Benchmark 3	Define plagiarism and avoid its use.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> has a section on bibliographies that introduces students to the basics of listing the sources used in their research.
III.A Speaking and Listening Benchmark 6	Perform expressive oral readings of prose, poetry, or drama.	Students can make sure they are pronouncing and using words correctly for oral presentations by looking them up in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and using the simple pronunciation symbols. In addition, the free student dictionary at WordCentral.com offers audio pronunciations.

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GRADE SIX

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
I.A. Word Recognition, Analysis, and Fluency Benchmark 3	Apply correct word pronunciation and inflection.	Students can find the pronunciations they need in <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> using the pronunciation symbols that are explained in the front of the book and presented in a key on every two-page spread. In addition, the free student dictionary at WordCentral.com offers audio pronunciations.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 3	Determine pronunciations, meanings, and alternate word choices through the use of dictionaries, thesauruses, and electronic tools.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> , with nearly 70,000 entries, contains the words students in grades 6–8 need to know. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> is a grade-level-appropriate reference with nearly 30,000 main entries presenting information on thousands of synonyms, related words, and antonyms. Students can also use the handy <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> (which combines dictionary and thesaurus entries). <i>The Merriam-Webster and Garfield Dictionary</i> is designed to make looking up words fun. WordCentral.com is a free website with a student dictionary and thesaurus.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 4	Determine the meaning of unknown words using knowledge of common Greek and Latin roots, suffixes, and prefixes.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes nearly 3,000 etymologies giving the roots and origins of words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> is organized by Latin and Greek roots for effective study and includes quizzes for added review and reinforcement. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> provides lists of common Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes, and roots with their meanings and examples of words that contain them.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 5	Recognize and interpret similes, metaphors, and words with multiple meanings.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> has nearly 70,000 entries. Thousands of examples of word use in context help clarify meanings.
II.A. Types of Writing Benchmark 1	Write frequently in a variety of forms, including...poems.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Rhyming Dictionary</i> feature alphabetical listings of rhyming sounds.
II.B. Elements of Composition Benchmark 2	Create narratives that develop settings, people/characters, dialogue, and conflicts using descriptive, concrete language to engage audiences.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> offers a treasury of synonyms, antonyms, and related and contrasted words for students to select from. It provides an example sentence to illustrate every word in its synonym lists, so students can choose the best words to enhance the style and tone of their writing.

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GRADE SIX, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 2	Edit writing for correct spelling and sentence clarity.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> provides correct spellings for nearly 70,000 words including variant spellings.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmarks 3a-e	Apply grammar conventions correctly in writing, including: consistent verb tense, subject and verb agreement with simple and compound subjects, nominative case, objective and possessive pronouns, and subject and verb agreement when interrupted by a phrase.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> has brief, helpful discussions on sticky language issues including help with correct pronoun case.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmarks 4a-g	Apply punctuation conventions correctly in writing, including: apostrophes, semicolons, capitalization of proper nouns, abbreviations, sentence beginnings and first words in quotes, commas, and quotation marks.	<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> each have chapters on the use of punctuation marks and capitalization.
II.D. Research Benchmark 3	Cite sources for both quoted and paraphrased information in a bibliography when writing a research report.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> give information on how to list all kinds of sources in bibliographies and also have chapters on incorporating quotations into texts.

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GRADE SEVEN

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
I.A. Word Recognition, Analysis, and Fluency Benchmark 3	Apply correct word pronunciation and inflection.	Students can find the pronunciations they need in <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> using the pronunciation symbols that are explained in the front of the book and presented in a key on every two-page spread. In addition, the free student dictionary at WordCentral.com offers audio pronunciations.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 4	Recognize the influences of other languages on the English language.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes nearly 3,000 etymologies giving the roots and origins of words. It also features 300 expanded word history paragraphs that tell the story behind a word's adoption into English.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 5	Apply knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand content area vocabulary and assist pronunciation.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> is organized by Latin and Greek roots for effective study and includes quizzes for added review and reinforcement. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> provides lists of common Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes, and roots with their meanings and examples of words that contain them.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 7	Determine pronunciations, meanings, and alternate word choices through the use of dictionaries, thesauruses, and electronic tools.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes nearly 70,000 entries and is designed especially for students in grades 6–8. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> is a grade-level-appropriate reference with nearly 30,000 main entries presenting information on thousands of synonyms, related words, and antonyms. More advanced students may wish to use <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's School Thesaurus</i> . Students can also use the handy <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> (which combines dictionary and thesaurus entries). <i>The Merriam-Webster and Garfield Dictionary</i> is designed to make looking up words fun. WordCentral.com is a free website with a student dictionary and thesaurus.
II.A. Types of Writing Benchmark 1	Write frequently in a variety of forms, including...poetry.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Rhyming Dictionary</i> feature alphabetical listings of rhyming sounds.
II.B. Elements of Composition Benchmark 2	Create narratives that develop settings, people/characters, dialogue, and conflicts using descriptive, concrete language to engage audiences.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> offers a treasury of synonyms, antonyms, and related and contrasted words for students to select from. It provides an example sentence to illustrate every word in its synonym lists so students can choose the best words to enhance the style and tone of their writing.

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GRADE SEVEN, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 2	Edit writing for correct spelling and sentence clarity.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> provides correct spellings for nearly 70,000 words including variant spellings.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmarks 3a-d	Apply grammar conventions correctly in writing, including: consistent verb tense, subject and verb agreement with simple and compound subjects, nominative, reflexive, objective, and possessive pronouns, pronoun/antecedent agreement, and subject and verb agreement when interrupted by a phrase.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> has brief, helpful discussions on sticky language issues including help with reflexive pronouns and correct pronoun case.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmarks 4a-g	Apply punctuation conventions correctly in writing, including: apostrophes, semicolons, capitalization of proper nouns, abbreviations, sentence beginnings and first words in quotes, commas, and quotation marks.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes "A Handbook of Style" 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.
II.D. Research Benchmark 2	Cite sources for quoted and paraphrased information in a bibliography when writing a research report.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> give information on how to list all kinds of sources in bibliographies and have chapters on incorporating quotations into texts.

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GRADE EIGHT

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 2	Determine the meanings of unknown words by using a dictionary or context clues.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> has nearly 70,000 entries written especially for grades 6–8. More advanced students may want to use <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> . WordCentral.com is a free website that offers an online student dictionary.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 4	Describe the influences of other languages on the English language.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes nearly 3,000 etymologies giving the roots and origins of words. <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> offers over 18,000 etymologies. Both dictionaries also feature expanded word history paragraphs that tell the story behind a word's adoption into English.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 5	Apply knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand content area vocabulary.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> is organized by Latin and Greek roots for effective study and includes quizzes for added review and reinforcement. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> provides lists of common Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes, and roots with their meanings and examples of words that contain them.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 8	Apply correct word pronunciation and inflection.	Students can find the pronunciations they need in <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> using the pronunciation symbols that are explained in the front of the book and presented in a key on every two-page spread. In addition, the free student dictionary at WordCentral.com offers audio pronunciations.
II.A. Types of Writing Benchmark 1	Write frequently in a variety of forms, including...poetry.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Rhyming Dictionary</i> feature alphabetical listings of rhyming sounds.
II.B. Elements of Composition Benchmark 2	Create narratives that develop settings, people/characters, dialogue, and conflicts using descriptive, concrete language to engage audiences.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> offers a treasury of synonyms, antonyms, and related and contrasted words for students to select from. It provides an example sentence to illustrate every word in its synonym lists so students can choose the best words to enhance the style and tone of their writing.

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GRADE EIGHT, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 2	Edit writing for correct spelling and sentence clarity.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> provides correct spellings for nearly 70,000 words including variant spellings.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 3a-h	Apply grammar conventions correctly in writing, including: consistent verb tense; adjectives and adverbs; subject and verb agreement with simple and compound subjects; nominative, reflexive, objective, and possessive pronouns; pronoun/antecedent agreement; subject and verb agreement when interrupted by a phrase; active/passive voice; and subjunctive mood.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> has brief, helpful discussions on sticky language issues, including help with reflexive pronouns and correct pronoun case.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 4a-e	Apply punctuation conventions correctly in writing, including: apostrophes, semicolons, capitalization of proper nouns, commas, and quotation marks.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes "A Handbook of Style" 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> each have chapters on the use of punctuation marks and capitalization.
II.D. Research Benchmark 3	Cite sources for both quoted and paraphrased information in a bibliography when writing a research report.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> give information on how to list all kinds of sources in bibliographies and have chapters on incorporating quotations into text.

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GRADES NINE–TWELVE

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 2	Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words and metaphors by using dictionaries, context clues, and reference books.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> is especially written for high-school students and includes more than 100,000 definitions. <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> is a 165,000-entry dictionary designed to support college-bound high-school students. <i>Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged</i> , includes nearly 500,000 entries and is designed to support the widest range of reading. <i>Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Geographical Dictionary</i> are two more specialized lexicons. <i>Merriam-Webster's Visual Dictionary</i> includes 6,000 detailed color illustrations and diagrams covering 94 specific themes along with comprehensive defining text.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 4	Apply knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand content area vocabulary.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> gives students the tools to understand vocabulary derived from 250 Greek and Latin roots. It introduces more than 3,000 words in all, with entries organized by roots, and quizzes to test progress and reward study. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> features a helpful list of over 75 prefixes and suffixes, their meanings, and examples of words that incorporate them.
I.B. Vocabulary Expansion Benchmark 5	Understand the meaning of unknown words using derivations, such as root words and origins.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> gives students word derivations in over 18,000 etymologies as well as 200 expanded word history paragraphs. <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> has over 38,000 etymologies and <i>Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged</i> , offers 143,000 etymologies.
II.B. Elements of Composition Benchmark 7	Generate footnotes, endnotes, and bibliographies in a consistent and widely accepted format.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> has a chapter on bibliographies that includes information on creating footnotes and endnotes according to the conventions of standard style manuals.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 3	Edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, verb tense, sentence structure, and paragraphing to enhance clarity and readability.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> will help students proofread for spelling and grammar. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> help students address sticky grammar and usage issues. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> includes a grammar glossary and guide to proofreading. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> offers students a complete reference to rules of capitalization and punctuation with many examples.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 3a	Correctly use reflexive case pronouns and nominative and objective case pronouns, including <i>who</i> and <i>whom</i> .	<i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> contain articles that address pronoun case, including reflexive pronouns and use of <i>who</i> and <i>whom</i> .

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GRADES NINE-TWELVE, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 3b	Correctly use punctuation such as the comma, semicolon, colon, hyphen, and dash.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> , and <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> present the rules for punctuation with abundant examples of correct use.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 3c	Correctly use <i>like/as if</i> , <i>any/any other</i> , <i>this kind/these kinds</i> , <i>who/that</i> , and <i>every/many</i> when they occur in a sentence.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> offer hundreds of articles that deal with sticky language issues such as use of <i>like</i> , <i>any other</i> , <i>these kind of</i> , <i>who</i> versus <i>that</i> and <i>every</i> .
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 3d	Correctly use verb forms with attention to subjunctive mood, subject/verb agreement, and active/passive voice.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> includes helpful articles on the subjunctive mood, on matters of subject/verb agreement, and on use of the passive voice.
II.C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage Benchmark 3e	Correctly use the possessive pronoun before the gerund.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> addresses usage issues students are likely to encounter including use of the possessive pronoun before a gerund.
II.D. Research Benchmark 10	Credit sources for both quoted and paraphrased ideas.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> gives information on how to credit all kinds of sources and has a separate chapter on incorporating quotations into text.
II.D. Research Benchmark 11	Cite sources of information using a standard method of documentation such as a style sheet from the MLA or from the APA.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> provides guidance and instruction for documenting sources with examples showing how the rules are applied in both the humanities and the sciences.