

Meeting the Standard in New York

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GRADE TWO

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Reading— Decoding Including Phonics and Structural Analysis	Identify and produce all letter-sound correspondences, including consonant blends/digraphs and vowel digraphs/diphthongs.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> offer entertaining poems and illustrations to demonstrate and describe the letter-sound correspondences of each letter of the alphabet. The descriptions at the consonants demonstrate consonant blends.
	Decode by analogy using knowledge of known words in word families to read unfamiliar grade-level words (e.g., given the word <i>boat</i> , read <i>coat</i> , <i>moat</i> , <i>goat</i>).	For every letter, <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> introduce students to words that begin with a different letter and end the same, plus other variations.
Reading— Background Knowledge and Vocabulary Development	Study antonyms, synonyms, and homonyms to learn new grade-level vocabulary.	Many entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> include information about synonyms and antonyms.
	Study root words, prefixes, suffixes, verb endings, plural nouns, contractions, and compound words to learn new grade-level vocabulary.	Many noun entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> show plurals of nouns in explanations and example sentences, as well as comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and different verb tenses. Many entries show examples of compound words built from entry words. For more advanced students, <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> offers Word Root paragraphs to introduce students to Greek and Latin roots.
	Use a dictionary to learn the meanings of words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> has easy-to-understand definitions written for young children. Students are introduced many other offerings of a dictionary, such as word histories and synonyms. More advanced students can use <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> , which includes nearly 1,300 quotations from works of classic and modern children's literature to show how words are used and to encourage further reading.
Writing— Spelling	Spell correctly previously studied words (e.g., grade-level multisyllabic, decodable words; irregularly spelled content and high-frequency words) in writing.	Students can check for correct spelling in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> , with its 3,000 words aimed at grades K–2. In addition to the main A-Z section, there is a list of tricky spelling words.

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GRADE TWO, *continued*

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Writing— Composition	Write original text using the writing process (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, editing).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> can help students in the writing and editing process for spelling help and for word choice (via definitions and synonymy).
	Vary the formality of language depending on purpose of writing.	Many entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> offer synonyms to help students vary their word choice.
Speaking	Use grade-level vocabulary to communicate ideas, emotions, or experiences for different purposes.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> helps students choose the right words. Advanced students can use <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> to help with word choice and correct pronunciation.

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GRADE THREE

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Reading— Background Knowledge and Vocabulary Development	Analyze word structure (e.g., roots, prefixes, suffixes) to learn word meaning.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes entries for prefixes and suffixes. Its 250 word history paragraphs introduce students to the concept of roots and word origins. In addition, Word Root paragraphs introduce students to Greek or Latin roots and show how English words are formed from them.
	Use a dictionary to learn the meanings of words and a thesaurus to identify synonyms and antonyms.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> is a grade-level-appropriate dictionary with full-colored illustrations and nearly 1,300 quotations from classic and modern works of children's literature which enliven definitions and show how words are used. An easy-to-follow "Using Your Dictionary" section is included. <i>Merriam-Webster's How to Use Your Dictionary</i> is an easy-to-read guide to the features of a dictionary and includes a guide to using a thesaurus. <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) offers free online access to an age-appropriate dictionary.
Writing— Spelling	Spell correctly previously studied decodable and irregularly spelled words and spelling patterns in own writing.	Students can refer to <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> to look up the correct spelling of words and for help in choosing the right homophone.
Writing— Composition	Write stories and reports using the writing process (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, editing).	Students may use <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> in the writing and editing process for spelling and grammar help and for word choice.
	Use grade-level vocabulary and sentence patterns in writing.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> offers students a compendium of grade-level-appropriate vocabulary.
	Review work independently for spelling and conventional capitalization and punctuation.	Entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> help with spelling, including forms of irregular verbs and capitalization of proper nouns. Its supplemental section, "A Guide for Writers," introduces and explains punctuation marks, formation of plurals, rules for capitalization, and use of italics.
	Vary the formality of language depending on audience and purpose of writing.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> features more than 100 synonym paragraphs that explain slight differences among closely related words to help students vary their vocabulary. It also introduces students to usage notes and labels to indicate appropriate word choice.
	Begin to use literary elements in creative writing (e.g., figurative language).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> features basic literary terms that students will use, with an example at each definition.

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GRADE THREE, *continued*

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Speaking	Use grade-level vocabulary to communicate orally ideas, emotions, or experiences for different purposes.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> can help students choose the right words and correct pronunciation. The free dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) for students offers audio pronunciations.

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GRADE FOUR Literacy Competencies

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Reading— Background Knowledge and Vocabulary Development	Use word structure such as roots, prefixes, and suffixes to determine meaning.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes entries for prefixes and suffixes. Its 250 word history paragraphs introduce students to the concept of roots and word origins. Word Root paragraphs throughout the dictionary introduce students to Greek and Latin roots and show how English words are formed.
	Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words by using context clues, dictionaries, and other resources.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> is a grade-level-appropriate dictionary with full-colored illustrations and an easy-to-follow "Using Your Dictionary" section. Nearly 1,300 quotations from works of classic and modern children's literature show how words are used and enliven definitions. <i>Merriam-Webster's How to Use Your Dictionary</i> is a guide, with exercises, to the features of a dictionary. <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) offers free access to an age-appropriate dictionary.
	Use a thesaurus to identify synonyms and antonyms.	<i>Merriam-Webster's How to Use Your Dictionary</i> includes a grade-level-appropriate guide to using a thesaurus. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> is for young students.
Writing— Spelling	Correctly spell words within own writing that follow the spelling patterns of words previously studied.	Students get spelling help from <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> .
Writing— Composition	Write a variety of compositions, using the writing process (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, proofreading).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> helps students in the writing and editing process with spelling, grammar, and word choice help.
	Use grade-level vocabulary and varied sentence structure.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> offers students a compendium of grade-level-appropriate vocabulary.
	Review work independently in order to edit for the correct use of grade-appropriate spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and verb tense.	Entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> help with spelling, including forms of irregular verbs and capitalization of proper nouns. Its supplemental section, "A Guide for Writers," introduces and explains punctuation marks, formation of plurals, rules for capitalization, and use of italics. For more advanced students, <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes a "Handbook of Style" section with information about punctuation and capitalization.

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GRADE FOUR, *continued* Literacy Competencies

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Writing— Composition	Vary the tone, vocabulary, and sentence structure according to the audience and purpose of writing.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> features more than 100 synonym paragraphs that explain differences among closely related words to help students vary their vocabulary. It also introduces students to usage notes and labels to indicate appropriate word choice.
	Begin to use literary devices such as similes and figurative language.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> feature basic literary terms, with an example at each definition.
Speaking	Use age-appropriate vocabulary to communicate ideas.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> help students choose the right words and pronunciation. <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) offers a free dictionary with audio pronunciations.

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GRADE FIVE Literacy Competencies and Grade-Specific Performance Indicators

READING Competencies

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Background Knowledge and Vocabulary Development	Use word structure knowledge, such as of roots, prefixes, and suffixes, to determine meaning.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes entries and definitions for prefixes and suffixes. Word Root paragraphs throughout the dictionary introduce students to Greek and Latin roots to show how English words are formed. For more advanced students, <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes entries and explanations for prefixes and suffixes, plus nearly 3,000 etymologies giving the roots and origins of words and 300 expanded word history paragraphs.
	Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words by using context clues, dictionaries, glossaries, and other resources.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> are written especially for students in the upper elementary and middle-school years respectively and have up-to-date content with new words students might encounter from the fields of science and technology. Both include "Using Your Dictionary" sections. <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) offers free online access to an age-appropriate dictionary.
	Use a thesaurus to identify synonyms and antonyms.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> is designed for middle-school students. <i>Merriam-Webster's How to Use Your Dictionary</i> includes grade-level-appropriate instructions to using a thesaurus. Students can also use <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> , which combines dictionary and thesaurus entries, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> , a brief guide to synonyms, related words, and antonyms.

WRITING Competencies

Spelling	Correctly spell words within own writing that follow the spelling patterns of words that have been previously studied.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> , with over 36,000 vocabulary entries, offers a rich source of vocabulary, and gives spellings of all inflected forms that are formed in ways other than by simply adding a suffix. For more advanced students, <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> provides help with correct spellings for more than 70,000 words, and includes variant spellings.
	Use a variety of spelling resources, such as spelling dictionaries and spell-check tools, to support correct spelling.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Instant Word Guide</i> is a concise guide to the spelling and end-of-line divisions of 35,000 words and includes a section on abbreviations.

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GRADE FIVE, *continued* Literacy Competencies and Grade-Specific Performance Indicators

WRITING Competencies, *continued*

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Composition	Write on a wide range of topics... Use the writing process (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, and editing).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> provides access to words students encounter in language they will understand across a wide range of topics. For more advanced students, <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> assists the writing process with spelling, word meaning, and grammar help, and serves as a guide to grade-level-appropriate vocabulary.
	Use grade-level vocabulary and varied sentence structure.	
	Review writing independently in order to edit for correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and paragraphing.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> can serve as a reliable source of information to help students proofread and edit for spelling, grammar, and other conventions of the language. It includes a "Guide for Writers" section that explains punctuation marks, formation of plurals, rules for capitalization, and use of italics. For more advanced students, <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes a Handbook of Style section that covers the same topics in more depth.
	Adjust style of writing, voice, and language used to purpose and intended audience.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> offers thousands of synonyms and related words to expand word choice. Entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> contain helpful usage labels (such as <i>nonstandard</i>) where appropriate.
	Use multiple sources of information when writing a report.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> and the free online dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) contain the words a student might need to look up in the research process. <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> shows how to list a variety of print, on-line, and non-print sources,

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GRADE FIVE, *continued* Literacy Competencies and Grade-Specific Performance Indicators

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
WRITING Performance Indicators		
For literary response and expression	Develop original literary texts that use ... examples of literary devices, such as rhyme, rhythm, and simile	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes entries for literary terms and gives examples. It also has entries and meanings for phrases and idioms. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> contains literary terms that middle-school students will encounter, from <i>alliteration</i> to <i>whodunit</i> . Many definitions include examples. <i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> is a useful tool for writing original rhyme with its alphabetical listing of rhyming sounds.
SPEAKING Competencies		
Speaking	Use appropriate and specific vocabulary to communicate ideas.	Entries and usage examples in both <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> can help students target specific meanings, understand grammatical function, and provide correct pronunciations in grade-level-appropriate language as they prepare presentations. The free student dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) offers audio pronunciations.
	Use grammatically correct sentences when speaking.	

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GRADE SIX

Literacy Competencies and Grade-Specific Performance Indicators

READING Competencies

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Background Knowledge and Vocabulary Development	Use word structure knowledge, such as of roots (e.g., Greek and Latin), prefixes, and suffixes, to determine meaning.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes entries and explanations for prefixes and suffixes. Regular use of the dictionary exposes students to nearly 3,000 etymologies giving the roots and origins of words. There are also 300 expanded word history paragraphs. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> has lists of common Greek and Latin roots with their meanings and of prefixes and suffixes and their meanings.
	Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words by using context, dictionaries, glossaries, and other print resources, including electronic resources.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> is a 70,000-word dictionary written especially for students in the middle-school years. It has up-to-date content with new words from the fields of science and technology and includes a "Using Your Dictionary" section. <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) offers free online access to an age-appropriate dictionary.
	Use a thesaurus to identify synonyms and antonyms.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> is a thesaurus designed for students in the middle-school years. Students can also use <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> , which combines dictionary and thesaurus entries, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> , a handy compendium of synonyms, related words, and antonyms.

WRITING Competencies

Spelling	Correctly spell words within own writing that follow the spelling patterns of words that have been previously studied.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> provides help with correct spellings for more than 70,000 words, including variant spellings.
	Use a variety of spelling resources, such as spelling dictionaries and spell-check tools, to support correct spelling.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Instant Word Guide</i> is a guide to the spelling of 35,000 words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) offers free grade-level-appropriate games that help with spelling.
Composition	Write on a wide range of topics... Use the writing process (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, and editing).	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> enhances the writing process with grade-level-appropriate help in spelling, word meaning, and grammar.
	Review writing independently in order to revise for focus, development of ideas, organization, and language use.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> provides grade-level-appropriate definitions to clarify standard use of commonly confused words. Many entries contain usage labels (such as <i>nonstandard</i>) where appropriate. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> covers some common problems in word usage (such as <i>alot</i> instead of <i>a lot</i>).

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GRADE SIX, *continued*

Literacy Competencies and Grade-Specific Performance Indicators

WRITING Competencies, *continued*

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Composition	Review writing independently in order to address editing concerns.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes a Handbook of Style section with concise information about punctuation and capitalization. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> offer more extensive guidance. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> includes a special section on proofreading and a list of common errors in grammar and punctuation.
	Use multiple sources of information when writing a report.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> and the free online dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) contain the words a student might look up in the research process.

WRITING Performance Indicators

For information and understanding	Use at least three sources of information, with appropriate citations, to develop reports.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> offers students a first introduction to writing notes and bibliographies, including parenthetical citations.
	Support ideas with examples, definitions, analogies, and direct references to the text, with assistance.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> and the free dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) can help students with writing their own definitions and with finding vocabulary for examples and analogies. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> has a chapter on incorporating quotations into texts.
For literary response and expression	Use examples of literary devices, such as rhythm, rhyme, simile, and personification.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> contains the literary terms, from <i>alliteration</i> to <i>whodunit</i> , that middle-school students will encounter. Many definitions include examples. <i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> is a useful tool for writing original rhyme.
For critical analysis and evaluation	Use precise vocabulary in writing analysis and evaluation.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> offers thousands of synonyms and related words to help students choose the right 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 distinguish slight differences between synonyms.

SPEAKING Competencies

Speaking	Use appropriate and precise vocabulary to communicate ideas.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> provides students with grade-level-appropriate guidance in word choice and grammar throughout the speech-writing process and offers complete pronunciation guidance for oral presentations. The free dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) for middle-school students offers audio pronunciations.
	Use grammatically correct sentences when speaking.	

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GRADE SEVEN

Literacy Competencies and Grade-Specific Performance Indicators

READING Competencies

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Background Knowledge and Vocabulary Development	Use knowledge of word roots (e.g., Greek, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon) and word parts to determine meaning.	Regular use of <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> exposes students to nearly 3,000 etymologies giving the roots and origins of words. There are also 300 expanded word history paragraphs. <i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> introduces students to 200 of the most productive Greek and Latin roots to aid new-vocabulary acquisition, as well as 200 more words derived from classical mythology or history.
	Use a variety of resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries, and other print and electronic references, to determine the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> is a 70,000-word dictionary with up-to-date content and new words students encounter in the fields of science and technology. <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) offers free access to a grade-level appropriate dictionary.

WRITING Competencies

Written Language Conventions	Correctly spell a large body of words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> provides correct spellings for more than 70,000 words, and includes variant spellings.
	Use a variety of spelling strategies (e.g., spelling patterns) and spelling resources (e.g., spelling dictionaries and spell-check tools) to support correct spelling.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Instant Word Guide</i> is a guide to the spelling of 35,000 words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) offers free grade-level-appropriate games that help with spelling skills.
Composition	Write on a wide range of topics, both student and teacher selected.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> assists in the writing process with grade-level-appropriate help in spelling, word meaning, grammar, and writing skills.
	Edit writing to adhere to the conventions of written English.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> provides grade-level-appropriate definitions to clarify standard use of commonly confused words. Entries contain usage labels (such as <i>nonstandard</i>) where applicable. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> contains brief discussions of common usage problems. <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> provide information on punctuation, capitalization, and other styling conventions, and also contain sections on word usage.
	Work collaboratively with peers to plan, draft, revise, and edit written work.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> includes a special section on proofreading and a list of common errors in grammar and punctuation.

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GRADE SEVEN, *continued* Literacy Competencies and Grade-Specific Performance Indicators

WRITING Performance Indicators

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
For information and understanding	Use paraphrase and quotation correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> has a chapter on incorporating quotations into texts, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> offers the same information in paperback.
	Connect, compare, and contrast ideas and information from one or more sources.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> includes synonyms, antonyms, and related and contrasted words and can provide students with the vocabulary they need to convey ideas via comparison and contrast.
	Support ideas with examples, definitions, analogies, and direct references to the text.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> and the free dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) help students with writing their own definitions.
	Cite sources in footnotes and bibliography, using correct form, with assistance.	<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.
For literary response and expression	Write original literary texts...Use literary devices.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate 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.
	Write original literary texts... Select a genre and use appropriate conventions, such as dialogue, rhythm, and rhyme, with assistance.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> is a useful tool for writing original rhyme with its alphabetical listing of rhyming sounds. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> can help students with correct punctuation of dialogue.
	Write original literary texts...Use language that is creative.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> offers thousands of synonyms and related words to help students write creatively. Students can also use <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> , which combines dictionary and thesaurus entries. <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 distinguish between synonyms to choose the right word. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> is a handy listing of synonyms, related words, and antonyms.

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GRADE SEVEN, *continued* Literacy Competencies and Grade-Specific Performance Indicators

SPEAKING Competencies

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Speaking	Speak in grammatically correct sentences, communicating ideas in an organized and coherent manner.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> provides students with grade-level-appropriate guidance in word choice and grammar throughout the speech-writing process and offers pronunciation guidance for oral presentations. The free dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) for middle-school students offers audio pronunciations.
	Use appropriate and precise vocabulary to convey ideas effectively.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> , used in conjunction with <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> , helps students choose words to liven up their imagery and present an engaging oral presentation.

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GRADE EIGHT

Literacy Competencies and Grade-Specific Performance Indicators

READING Competencies

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Background Knowledge and Vocabulary Development	Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words, terms, and idioms by using context, dictionaries, glossaries, and other print and electronic resources.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> have up-to-date content with new words from today's world. <i>Merriam-Webster Online</i> (Merriam-Webster.com) offers free online access to a more advanced dictionary.
	Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words, terms, and idioms by using word structure knowledge, such as of roots (e.g., Greek and Latin), prefixes, and suffixes, to determine meaning.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> exposes students to nearly 3,000 etymologies giving the roots and origins of words. There are also 300 expanded word history paragraphs. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> lists common Greek and Latin roots and prefixes and suffixes with their meanings. <i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> introduces students to 200 of the most productive Greek and Latin roots to aid new-vocabulary acquisition, as well as 200 more words derived from classical mythology or history.
	Recognize grade-appropriate synonyms and antonyms and use a thesaurus to identify additional examples.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> is designed especially for middle-school students. Every main entry has a full list of synonyms, antonyms, near antonyms, and related words from <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> . Every synonym is provided with an example sentence so students can detect slight differences among closely related words.
	Recognize multiple meanings of words and connections among meanings of words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> has thousands of usage examples to clarify meanings and expand understanding of words students encounter in a wide variety of written works. <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> offers more word choices with more than 100,000 definitions. Both dictionaries present a word's definitions in historical order (older uses first) to help students determine the meanings of words as they are used in classic and modern literature.

WRITING Competencies

Spelling	Correctly spell most words in one's writing.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> provides correct spellings for more than 70,000 words, with variant spellings. <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> offers more than 85,000 words.
	Use a variety of spelling resources, such as spelling dictionaries and spell-check tools to spell words correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Instant Word Guide</i> is a handy guide to the spelling and end-of-line divisions of 35,000 words. It includes a section on abbreviations. <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) offers free grade-level-appropriate games that help with spelling skills.

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GRADE EIGHT, *continued* Literacy Competencies and Grade-Specific Performance Indicators

WRITING Competencies, *continued*

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Composition	Work collaboratively with peers to plan, draft, revise, and edit written work.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> have information on punctuation and capitalization and other styling conventions, and contain sections on word usage. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> includes brief discussions of common usage problems. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> contains a list of often-confused words and the information needed to use them correctly. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> includes a section on proofreading that shows proofreader's marks, and a list of common errors in grammar and punctuation.

WRITING Performance Indicators

For information and understanding	Use paraphrase and quotation correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> has a chapter on incorporating quotations into texts, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> offers the same information in paperback.
	Connect, compare, and contrast ideas and information from one or more sources.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> , with its coverage of synonyms, antonyms, and related and contrasted words, can provide students with the vocabulary they need to convey ideas via comparison and contrast.
	Support ideas with examples, definitions, analogies, and direct references to the text.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , and the free online student dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) can help students write their own definitions. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> offers alternative words in its synonym and related words lists that students can use to restate meaning and make analogies.
	Cite sources in notes and bibliography, using correct form.	<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. <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> has a more detailed chapter on footnotes, endnotes, and bibliographies.

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GRADE EIGHT, *continued* Literacy Competencies and Grade-Specific Performance Indicators

WRITING Performance Indicators, *continued*

Competency	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
For literary response and expression	Write original literary texts... Sequence events to advance a plot; use action, conflict, climax, falling action, and resolution.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> , with its thousands of synonyms and related words, helps students select the descriptive words they will need to write creatively. Or students can use <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> , which combines dictionary and thesaurus entries. <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 distinguish slight differences between synonyms to choose the right word. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> is a handy compendium of synonyms, related words, and antonyms.
	Write original literary texts... Select a genre and use appropriate conventions, such as dialogue, rhythm, and rhyme.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> is a useful tool for writing original rhyme with its alphabetical listing of rhyming sounds. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> help students with correct punctuation of dialogue.

SPEAKING Competencies

Speaking	Use precise vocabulary to communicate ideas.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> provides students with grade-level-appropriate guidance in word choice and grammar throughout the speech-writing process and offers pronunciation guidance for oral presentations. The free dictionary at <i>Merriam-Webster's Word Central</i> (WordCentral.com) for middle-school students offers audio pronunciations.
	Speak, using grammatical structures suited to particular audiences.	

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GRADES NINE–TWELVE

Core Performance Indicators

READING

Competency Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words by using classroom and other resources.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> is up-to-date with new words from the fields of science, technology, entertainment, and health. Its nearly 1,000 illustrations help clarify meanings. <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> is a 165,000-word dictionary designed to support college-bound high-school students as they read a variety of texts. <i>Merriam-Webster Online</i> (Merriam-Webster.com) offers free online access to a complete dictionary.
Distinguish between dictionary meaning and implied meaning of the writer's words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> can help students with implied meanings with more than 500 synonym paragraphs that show connotative and denotative differences among close synonyms. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms</i> is a concise guide to connotative and denotative differences among close synonyms. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms</i> is designed as a thesaurus companion; students can find more assistance with distinguishing the subtle connotative differences among close synonyms.
Use knowledge of punctuation to assist in comprehension.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> , and <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Handbook for Writers</i> state the rules, and give abundant examples so students see the way punctuation is used.

WRITING

Use tone and language appropriate to the audience and purpose.	For language choice, <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> and the paperback <i>Merriam-Webster Thesaurus</i> offer more than 78,000 synonyms and related words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> offers a one-stop reference with combined dictionary and thesaurus entries. <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus</i> (or any of the paperback derivatives of this title) offers guidance and assistance in finding fresh and vivid word choices.
Use the writing process (e.g. prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, and editing).	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> provides the final authority for students when questions of grammar, usage, and spelling arise. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> contains a section on proofreading that shows proofreader's marks, and a list of common errors in grammar and punctuation. <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> includes a section on proofreading and copyediting.
Write clear, concise sentences.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> assists students in the writing process by providing information and guidance about proper spellings and meanings of words, parts of speech, status level, and discrimination of close synonyms.
Observe the rules of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • punctuation of dialogue • capitalization of words in quotes • spelling of commonly misspelled words, homonyms, content-area vocabulary. 	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> provide and illustrate rules for using quotation marks and other punctuation marks and for using capitals when writing dialogue. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> contains a list with often-confused spellings (such as <i>assent</i> and <i>ascent</i>) and the information needed to use the correct one. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> includes some common problems in word usage (such as using <i>alot</i> instead of <i>a lot</i>). <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> presents and discusses alternative spellings and common spelling problems with homonyms (for example, <i>gait</i> and <i>gate</i>). <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> provides spellings for more than 70,000 words, including variant spellings. <i>Merriam-Webster's Instant Word Guide</i> is a handy guide to the spelling of 35,000 words.

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GRADE NINE–TWELVE, *continued* Core Performance Indicators

WRITING, *continued*

Competency Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
Use correct grammatical construction— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parts of speech • correct subject-verb agreement, correct verb tense and pronouns, with clear antecedents. 	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> contains a list with often-confused parts of speech (such as <i>affect</i> and <i>effect</i>) and the information needed to use the correct one. <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> has articles on subject-verb agreement and provides guidance for correct pronoun use. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> provides similar guidance in shorter form.
Use dictionaries, thesauruses, and style manuals.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's School Thesaurus</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> , and <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Handbook for Writers</i> are grade-level-appropriate references for high-school students. <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> includes a Using Your Dictionary section in the front matter, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> contains a Using Your Thesaurus section. <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> and <i>The Merriam-Webster Dictionary</i> are appropriate for college-bound high-school students.

GRADE SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

GRADE 9: Writing for information and understanding (Standard 1)

Cite primary and secondary sources of information in bibliography and citations, using an approved style sheet.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> has a section on notes and bibliographies, including parenthetical references. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> offers the same information, in a different format.
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GRADE 10: Writing for literary response and expression (Standard 2)

Use literary devices, such as figurative language, allegory, irony, symbolism, and stream of consciousness.	<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.
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GRADE 11–12: Listening

Recognize content-specific vocabulary, terminology, or jargon unique to particular groups of people.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , with 85,000 entries, is up-to-date with today's words from the fields of science, technology, entertainment, and health.
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GRADE 11–12: Speaking

Use the conventions of standard spoken English appropriate to the message and audience.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> provides students with grade-level-appropriate guidance in word choice and grammar throughout the speech-writing process. <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> is appropriate for college-bound high school students. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> can help students choose words to liven up imagery for oral presentations. <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> offers pronunciation guidance for oral presentations and <i>Merriam-Webster Online</i> (Merriam-Webster.com) includes free audio pronunciations.
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