

**Alabama State Standards  
correlated to  
Merit Software Writing Mechanics- Grammar Programs**

The Classroom Improvement Section is responsible for the development, implementation, and assessment of the minimum curriculum content (standards) and course design for K-12 students in the public schools. It is responsible for instructional support that includes courses of study, instructional materials and research, curriculum alignment materials, recognition and scholarship programs, the textbook adoption program, and counseling and guidance services. The most recent English Language Arts Course of Study for was adopted in 1999 for implementation in the 2001-2002 school year.

Merit's Writing Mechanics-Grammar programs address the following Alabama State Standards:

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Grade 3

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	21. Know and apply principles of grammar and usage in writing, speaking, and presenting and apply mechanics in writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <b>Capitalization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First word in sentence</li> <li>- Letter parts</li> <li>- Proper nouns</li> <li>- Titles of people, books, and works of art</li> <li>- Days and months</li> </ul> </li> <li>· <b>Punctuation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apostrophe with contraction and possessive</li> <li>- Comma to separate items in a series, in an address, and in a compound sentence</li> <li>- Period with abbreviation</li> <li>- End marks</li> <li>- Quotation marks and commas with dialogue</li> </ul> </li> <li>· <b>Grammar and usage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Subject-verb agreement with simple subject</li> <li>- Appropriate tense including present, past, and future</li> <li>- Pronoun case</li> <li>- Parts of speech (nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Grammar Fitness Sets 1; Grammar Shape Up

Grade 4

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	23. Know and apply principles of grammar and usage in writing, speaking, and presenting and apply mechanics in writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <b>Capitalization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First word in sentence</li> <li>- First word in quotation</li> <li>- Letter parts</li> <li>- Proper nouns</li> <li>- Titles of people, books, and works of art</li> <li>- Days and months</li> </ul> </li> <li>· <b>Punctuation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apostrophe with contraction and possessive</li> <li>- Comma to separate items in a series, in an address, and in a compound sentence</li> <li>- Period with abbreviation</li> <li>- End marks</li> <li>- Quotation marks and commas with dialogue</li> <li>- Underlining or italicizing book titles</li> </ul> </li> <li>· <b>Grammar and usage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Subject-verb agreement with simple subject                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appropriate tense including present, past, and future</li> <li>- Pronoun case</li> <li>- Special usage problems such as double negatives</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Parts of speech (nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Grammar Fitness Sets 1; Grammar Shape Up

Grade 5

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	23. Know and apply principles of grammar and usage in writing, speaking, and presenting and apply mechanics in writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <b>Capitalization</b></li> <li>- First word in quotation</li> <li>- Letter parts in business and friendly letter</li> <li>- Proper nouns and adjectives</li> <li>- Titles of people, books, and works of art</li> <li>- Days and months</li> <li>· <b>Punctuation</b></li> <li>- End marks</li> <li>- Apostrophe with contraction and possessive</li> <li>- Comma to set off appositive</li> <li>- Period with abbreviation</li> <li>- Quotation marks with titles of short stories and poems</li> <li>- Quotation marks and comma with dialogue</li> <li>- Colon to introduce a list</li> <li>- Underlining or italicizing book titles</li> <li>· <b>Grammar and usage</b></li> <li>- Subject-verb agreement with simple subject and compound subjects</li> <li>- Appropriate verb tenses (present, past, and future)</li> <li>- Forms of adjectives and adverbs</li> <li>- Forms of nouns and verbs</li> <li>- Pronoun case</li> <li>- Special usage problems such as double negatives</li> <li>- Parts of speech</li> </ul>	Grammar Fitness Sets 1; Grammar Shape Up

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	22. Know and apply principles of grammar and usage in writing, speaking, and presenting and apply mechanics in writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <b>Capitalization</b></li> <li>- First word in quotation</li> <li>- Parts of a letter</li> <li>- Proper nouns and adjectives</li> <li>- Regions of country</li> <li>- Titles of people, books, and works of art</li> <li>· <b>Punctuation</b></li> <li>- Comma(s) to set off appositive</li> <li>- Comma before coordinate conjunction in compound sentence</li> <li>- Commas with items in a series and introductory elements</li> <li>- Colon to introduce a list</li> <li>- Quotation marks and commas with direct quotations</li> <li>- Apostrophe with contraction and for possession</li> <li>- End punctuation</li> <li>· <b>Grammar, usage, and spelling</b></li> <li>- Adverb and adjective forms</li> <li>- Noun and verb forms</li> <li>- Appropriate tense (present, past, and future)</li> <li>- Subject-verb agreement (including indefinite pronoun as subject)</li> <li>- Pronoun case</li> <li>- Special usage problems</li> <li>Examples: double negatives, homonym confusion</li> <li>- Parts of speech</li> <li>- Variety in word choice</li> <li>- Developing compound and complex sentences</li> <li>- Avoiding redundancy, fragments, run-ons, and on-and-on sentences</li> </ul>	Grammar Fitness Sets 1-2, Write it Right Set 1, Grammar Shape Up

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	22. Know and apply principles of grammar and usage in writing, speaking, and presenting and apply mechanics in writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <b>Capitalization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proper nouns and adjectives</li> <li>- Regions of country</li> <li>- Titles of people, books, and works of art</li> <li>- First word in quotations</li> </ul> </li> <li>· <b>Punctuation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comma(s) with appositives, with introductory elements, and before coordinate conjunction in compound sentence</li> <li>- Colon to introduce a list</li> <li>- Quotation marks and commas with direct quotations</li> <li>- Semicolon between independent clauses with no conjunction</li> <li>- Apostrophe for possession and contractions</li> </ul> </li> <li>· <b>Grammar, usage, and spelling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adverb and adjective forms</li> <li>- Noun and verb forms</li> <li>- Appropriate tenses including present, past, future, and perfect tenses</li> <li>- Subject-verb agreement including intervening phrase</li> <li>- Pronoun-antecedent agreement</li> <li>- Pronoun case</li> <li>- Special usage problems</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Examples: double negatives, homonym confusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parts of speech</li> <li>- Developing compound and complex sentences</li> <li>- Avoiding redundancy, fragments, run-ons, and on-and-on sentences</li> </ul>	Grammar Fitness Sets 1-2, Write It Right Set 1, Grammar Shape Up

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	20. Know and apply principles of grammar and usage in writing, speaking, and presenting and apply mechanics in writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capitalization</li> <li>- Proper nouns and adjectives</li> <li>- Regions of country</li> <li>- Titles of people, books, paintings, films, and ships</li> <li>- First word in quotations</li> <li>- Punctuation</li> <li>- Comma(s) to set off nonessential appositives</li> <li>- Comma with introductory elements and direct quotations</li> <li>- Comma before coordinate conjunction in compound sentence</li> <li>- Colon to introduce a list</li> <li>- Quotation marks with direct quotations</li> <li>- Semicolon between independent clauses with no conjunction</li> <li>- Apostrophe for possession and contractions</li> <li>- Grammar, usage, and spelling</li> <li>- Adverb and adjective forms</li> <li>- Noun and verb forms</li> <li>- Appropriate tense (avoiding shifts, all tenses)</li> <li>- Subject-verb agreement</li> <li>- Pronoun-antecedent agreement</li> <li>- Pronoun case</li> <li>- Special usage problems</li> <li>Examples: double negatives, homonym confusion</li> <li>- Parts of speech</li> <li>- Variety and precision in word choice</li> <li>- Developing compound and complex sentences</li> <li>- Avoiding redundancy, fragments, run-ons, and on-and-on sentences</li> </ul>	Grammar Fitness Sets 2-3, Write It Right Set 1, Grammar Shape Up

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	29. Demonstrate understanding of language terms and ability to apply the concepts to writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capitalization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proper nouns and adjectives</li> <li>- Regions of the country</li> <li>- Courtesy titles</li> <li>- Videos, paintings, and other works of art</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Punctuation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commas for items in a series, direct address, compound sentences, friendly letter salutations, addresses, nonrestrictive appositives and phrases, introductory adverb clauses, and direct quotations</li> <li>- Periods for abbreviations</li> <li>- Underlining or italicizing for certain titles</li> <li>- Quotation marks for certain titles</li> <li>- Quotation marks with direct quotations</li> <li>- Colons</li> <li>- Semicolons</li> <li>- Apostrophe for possession and contractions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Grammar, usage, and spelling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Singular, plural, and possessive noun forms</li> <li>- Singular and plural verb forms</li> <li>- Subject-verb agreement</li> <li>- Pronoun-antecedent agreement</li> <li>- Avoidance of double negatives, fragments, run-ons, on-and-ons, comma splices, and homonym confusion</li> <li>- Appropriate subordination</li> <li>- Placement of modifiers</li> <li>- Pronoun case, number, and gender</li> <li>- Tense</li> <li>- Parallel structure</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Grammar Shape Up, Grammar Fitness Sets 3-4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	20. Demonstrate knowledge of language terminology and application of the concepts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capitalization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proper nouns and adjectives</li> <li>- Regions of the country</li> <li>- Books, works of art, videos, ships, buildings</li> <li>- Courtesy titles</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Punctuation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commas for items in a series, compound sentences, friendly letter salutation, direct address, introductory adverb clauses, nonrestrictive appositives and phrases including parenthetical expressions, and with dialogue</li> <li>- Apostrophes for possession (singular and plural)</li> <li>- Periods for abbreviations</li> <li>- Underlining or italicizing for certain titles</li> <li>- Quotation marks for certain titles and for dialogue</li> <li>- Ellipses</li> <li>- Parentheses</li> <li>- Hyphens</li> <li>- Colons</li> <li>- Semicolons</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Grammar, usage, and spelling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Subject-verb agreement</li> <li>- Noun and verb forms</li> <li>- Pronoun-antecedent agreement</li> <li>- Avoidance of double negatives, fragments, run-ons, comma splices, shifts in verb tense (all)</li> <li>- Phrases and clauses</li> <li>- Appropriate subordination</li> <li>- Placement of modifiers</li> <li>- Pronoun case, number, and gender</li> <li>- Parallel structure in lists or series, clauses, phrases</li> <li>- Word choice for vividness and clarity</li> <li>- Preference for active voice</li> <li>- Spelling of commonly confused words</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Grammar Shape Up, Grammar Fitness Sets 3-4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness
Reading/Writing	22. Use available technology related to English language arts.		Grammar Shape Up, Grammar Fitness Sets 3-4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	21. Demonstrate proficiency in using language terminology and in applying language concepts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Capitalization</b></li> <li>- <b>Punctuation</b></li> <li>- Commas for items in a series, direct address, nonrestrictive appositives and phrases including parenthetical expressions, introductory adverb clauses, nominative absolutes, and direct quotations</li> <li>- Apostrophe for possessives</li> <li>- Periods for abbreviations</li> <li>- Underlining or italicizing certain titles</li> <li>- Quotation marks for direct quotation and for certain titles</li> <li>- Ellipses</li> <li>- Parentheses</li> <li>- Hyphens including suspended hyphens</li> <li>- Slashes</li> <li>- Colons</li> <li>- Semicolons</li> <li>- <b>Grammar, usage, and spelling</b></li> <li>- Subject-verb agreement including in subjunctive mood and with noun clause as subject</li> <li>- Noun and verb forms</li> <li>- Pronoun-antecedent agreement</li> <li>- Avoidance of double negatives, fragments, run-ons, comma splices, shifts in verb tense, passive voice, redundancy, ambiguity, stilted or artificial language, and homonym confusion</li> <li>- Appropriate subordination</li> <li>- Placement of modifiers</li> <li>- Pronoun case, number, and gender</li> <li>- Parallelism of all types</li> </ul>	Grammar Fitness Set 4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness