

**Colorado Model Content Standards for Reading and Writing  
correlated to  
Merit Software Writing Mechanics- Grammar Programs**

The ability to communicate clearly -- to read, write, speak, and listen -- forms the core of human culture. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills are essential tools for learning, for success in the workplace, for enriching and expanding our lives, and for responsible citizenship. Language skills are particularly critical in the area of education. Through language abilities, students understand the academic content areas. Success in learning is grounded in students acquiring solid knowledge and skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The Colorado Model Content Standards set high expectations in these areas for all students.

Merit’s Writing Mechanics-Grammar programs address the following Colorado Model Content Standards for Reading and Writing:

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Grade 3-4

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• revising and editing speech and writing	Grammar Fitness Set 1
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• knowing and using subject/verb agreement	Grammar Shape Up
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• knowing and using correct modifiers	Grammar Shape Up

Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• knowing and using correct capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations	Grammar Fitness Set 1
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• spelling frequently used words correctly using phonics rules and exceptions	Grammar Fitness Set 1

Grade 5

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	2. Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• edit drafts for specific purposes such as to ensure standard usage, varied sentence structure, and appropriate word choice;	Grammar Fitness Set 1, Write It Right Set 1
Writing	3. Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• know and use regular and irregular plurals correctly;	Grammar Shape Up
Writing	3. Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• use adjectives (comparative and superlative forms) and adverbs appropriately;	Grammar Shape Up
Writing	3. Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• employ standard English usage in writing, including subject-verb agreement and pronoun referents;	Grammar Fitness Set 1, Write It Right Set 1
Writing	3. Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• know and use correct capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations;	Grammar Fitness Set 1, Write It Right Set 1
Writing	3. Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• know and use correct pronoun cases.	Grammar Shape Up, Grammar Fitness Set 1, Write It Right Set 1

Grade 6

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	2. Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.	• edit drafts for specific purposes such as to ensure standard usage, varied sentence structure, and appropriate word choice;	Grammar Fitness Set 1, Write It Right Set 1
Writing	3. Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• know and use regular and irregular plurals correctly;	Grammar Shape Up
Writing	3. Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• use adjectives (comparative and superlative forms) and adverbs appropriately;	Grammar Shape Up
Writing	3. Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• employ standard English usage in writing, including subject-verb agreement and pronoun referents;	Grammar Fitness Set 1, Write It Right Set 1
Writing	3. Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• know and use correct capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations;	Grammar Fitness Set 1, Write It Right Set 1
Writing	3. Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• know and use correct pronoun cases.	Grammar Shape Up, Grammar Fitness Set 1, Write It Right Set 1

Grade 7

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• identify parts of speech such as nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adjectives;	Grammar Shape Up
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• use standard English usage in writing, including subject/verb agreement, pronoun referents, modifiers, homonyms, and homophones;	Grammar Fitness Sets 1-2, Write It Right Set 1

Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• write in complete sentences;	Grammar Fitness Sets 1-2, Write It Right Set 1
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• use capitals correctly, such as in titles, direct quotations, and proper nouns;	Grammar Shape Up
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• punctuate correctly, including apostrophes; commas in dialogue, compound sentences, complex sentences, and direct address; and semi-colons;	Grammar Fitness Sets 1-2, Write It Right Set 1

Grade 8

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• identify the parts of speech such as nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections;	Grammar Shape Up
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• use correct pronoun case, regular and irregular noun and verb forms, and subject-verb agreement involving comparisons in writing and speaking;	Grammar Shape Up, Grammar Fitness Sets 2-3, Write It Right Set 1
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• use possessives and correct paragraphing in writing;	Grammar Shape Up, Grammar Fitness Sets 2-3

Grade 9

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• identify the parts of speech such as nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections;	Grammar Shape Up

Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• edit for correct grammatical convention;	Grammar Fitness Sets 3-4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• use standard English in writing, including agreement of subject and verb, agreement of pronoun and its antecedent, parallel structure, consistent verb tense, and correct modifiers;	Grammar Fitness Sets 3-4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• write and speak in complete sentences;	Grammar Fitness Sets 3-4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• punctuate correctly, including apostrophes, commas, semi-colons, colons, dashes, and ellipsis;	Grammar Fitness Sets 3-4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• capitalize, paragraph, and spell correctly.	Grammar Fitness Sets 3-4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness

Grade 10

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• edit for correct grammatical conventions;	Grammar Fitness Sets 3-4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• use standard English in writing, including agreement of subject and verb, agreement of pronoun and its antecedent, parallel structure, and correct modifiers;	Grammar Fitness Sets 3-4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	• write in complete sentences;	Grammar Fitness Sets 3-4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness

Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>punctuate correctly, including apostrophes, commas, semi-colons, colons, and dashes;</li> </ul>	Grammar Fitness Sets 3-4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>capitalize, paragraph, and spell correctly.</li> </ul>	Grammar Fitness Sets 3-4, Write It Right Set 2, Business English Fitness

Grade 11

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use pronoun reference correctly in writing and speaking;</li> </ul>	Grammar Fitness Set 4, Business English Fitness, Write It Right Set 2
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use phrases and clauses for purposes of modification and parallel structure in writing and speaking;</li> </ul>	Grammar Fitness Set 4, Business English Fitness, Write It Right Set 2
Writing	Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>refine spelling and grammatical skills and become a self-evaluator of their writing and speaking</li> </ul>	Grammar Fitness Set 4, Business English Fitness, Write It Right Set 2