

**Illinois Learning Standards
correlated to
Merit Software Vocabulary Programs**

The *Illinois Learning Standards for English Language Arts* goals and standards have not changed since their adoption in 1997. Through the achievement of these goals and standards, students will gain proficiency in the language skills that are basic to all learning, critical to success in the workplace and essential to life as productive citizens. English language arts includes reading, writing, speaking, listening and the study of literature. Through the study of the English language arts, students should be able to read fluently, understanding a broad range of written materials. They must be able to communicate well and listen carefully and effectively. They should develop a command of the language and demonstrate their knowledge through speaking and writing for a variety of audiences and purposes.

Merit’s Vocabulary programs address the following Illinois Learning standards:

- Grades 4-5 pg. 1
- Grades 6-8 pg. 1
- Grades 9-10 pg. 1-2

Grades 4-5

Subhead	State Goal	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Reading	STATE GOAL 1: Read with understanding and fluency.	A. Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.	1.A.2a Read and comprehend unfamiliar words using root words, synonyms, antonyms, word origins and derivations.	Vocabulary Stretch, Set 1
Reading	STATE GOAL 1: Read with understanding and fluency.	A. Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.	1.A.2b Clarify word meaning using context clues and a variety of resources including glossaries, dictionaries and thesauruses.	Vocabulary Stretch, Set 1

Grades 6-8

Subhead	State Goal	Learning Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Reading	STATE GOAL 1: Read with understanding and fluency.	A. Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.	1.A.3a Apply knowledge of word origins and derivations to comprehend words used in specific content areas (e.g., scientific, political, literary, mathematical).	Vocabulary Stretch Sets 1-2
Reading	STATE GOAL 1: Read with understanding and fluency.	A. Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.	1.A.3b Analyze the meaning of words and phrases in their context.	Vocabulary Stretch Sets 1-2

Grades 9-10

Subhead	State Goal	Learning Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Reading	STATE GOAL 1: Read with understanding and fluency.	A. Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.	1.A.4a Expand knowledge of word origins and derivations and use idioms, analogies, metaphors and similes to extend vocabulary development.	Vocabulary Stretch Set 2
Reading	Read with understanding and fluency.	A. Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.	1.A.4b Compare the meaning of words and phrases and use analogies to explain the relationships among them.	Vocabulary Stretch Set 2