

**Massachusetts State Standards
correlated to
Merit Software Process Writing Programs**

This English Language Arts Curriculum Framework, completed in 2001, is one of seven documents created to advance educational reform in Massachusetts. It reflects the work of PreK–12 educators and consultants throughout the state in collaboration with staff from the Massachusetts Department of Education. The ten **Guiding Principles** articulate a set of beliefs about the teaching, learning, and assessing of speaking, viewing, listening, reading, and writing. The English language arts are organized into four **Strands**, or content areas: Language, Reading and Literature, Composition, and Media. The **27 General Standards**—broad statements that outline what students should know and be able to do in English language arts—are separated into **Learning Standards** for PreK–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8, 9–10, and 11–12. General Standards for vocabulary (4), reading (7 and 8) and for composition (19 and 22) have been further divided into PreK–K and 1–2 clusters.

Merit’s Process Writing programs address the following Massachusetts State Standards:

- Grades 3-4 pg. 1
- Grades 5-6 pg. 2
- Grades 7-8 pg. 2
- Grades 9-10 pg. 2
- Grades 11-12 pg. 3

Grades 3-4

Subhead	General Standard	Learning Standard	Merit Software
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 19: Writing Students will write with a clear focus, coherent organization, and sufficient detail.	For imaginative/literary writing 19.9 Write stories that have a beginning, middle, and end and contain details of setting.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 21: Revising Students will demonstrate improvement in organization, content, paragraph development, level of detail, style, tone, and word choice (diction) in their compositions after revising them.	21.2 Revise writing to improve level of detail after determining what could be added or deleted.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 23: Organizing Ideas in Writing Students will organize ideas in writing in a way that makes sense for their purpose.	23.4 Organize ideas for a brief response to a reading.	Read and Respond Punch

Grades 5-6

Subhead	General Standard	Learning Standard	Merit Software
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 19: Writing Students will write with a clear focus, coherent organization, and sufficient detail.	19.17 Write a short explanation of a process that includes a topic statement, supporting details, and a conclusion.	Paragraph Punch
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 21: Revising Students will demonstrate improvement in organization, content, paragraph development, level of detail, style, tone, and word choice (diction) in their compositions after revising them.	21.4 Revise writing to improve level of detail and precision of language after determining where to add images and sensory detail, combine sentences, vary sentences, and rearrange text.	Paragraph Punch
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 23: Organizing Ideas in Writing Students will organize ideas in writing in a way that makes sense for their purpose.	23.8 Organize information about a topic into a coherent paragraph with a topic sentence, sufficient supporting detail, and a concluding sentence.	Paragraph Punch

Grades 7-8

Subhead	General Standard	Learning Standard	Merit Software
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 19: Writing Students will write with a clear focus, coherent organization, and sufficient detail.	19.22 Write and justify a personal interpretation of literary, informational, or expository reading that includes a topic statement, supporting details from the literature, and a conclusion.	Essay Punch, Writing about Reading, Paragraph Punch
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 19: Writing Students will write with a clear focus, coherent organization, and sufficient detail.	19.23 Write multi-paragraph compositions that have clear topic development, logical organization, effective use of detail, and variety in sentence structure.	Essay Punch
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 21: Revising Students will demonstrate improvement in organization, content, paragraph development, level of detail, style, tone, and word choice (diction) in their compositions after revising them.	21.6 Revise writing to improve organization and diction after checking the logic underlying the order of ideas, the precision of vocabulary used, and the economy of writing.	Essay Punch

Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 23: Organizing Ideas in Writing Students will organize ideas in writing in a way that makes sense for their purpose.	23.10 Organize information into a coherent essay or report with a thesis statement in the introduction, transition sentences to link paragraphs, and a conclusion.	Essay Punch
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Grades 9-10

Subhead	General Standard	Learning Standard	Merit Software
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 19: Writing Students will write with a clear focus, coherent organization, and sufficient detail.	19.26 Write well-organized essays (persuasive, literary, personal) that have a clear focus, logical development, effective use of detail, and variety in sentence structure.	Essay Punch
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 21: Revising Students will demonstrate improvement in organization, content, paragraph development, level of detail, style, tone, and word choice (diction) in their compositions after revising them.	21.8 Revise writing by attending to topic/idea development, organization, level of detail, language/style, sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics.	Essay Punch

Grades 11-12

Subhead	General Standard	Learning Standard	Merit Software
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 19: Writing Students will write with a clear focus, coherent organization, and sufficient detail.	19.30 Write coherent compositions with a clear focus, objective presentation of alternate views, rich detail, well-developed paragraphs, and logical argumentation.	Essay Punch
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 21: Revising Students will demonstrate improvement in organization, content, paragraph development, level of detail, style, tone, and word choice (diction) in their compositions after revising them.	21.9 Revise writing to improve style, word choice, sentence variety, and subtlety of meaning after rethinking how well questions of purpose, audience, and genre have been addressed.	Essay Punch
Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 23: Organizing Ideas in Writing Students will organize ideas in writing in a way that makes sense for their purpose.	23.14 Organize ideas for emphasis in a way that suits the purpose of the writer.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business

Writing	GENERAL STANDARD 23: Organizing Ideas in Writing Students will organize ideas in writing in a way that makes sense for their purpose.	23.15 Craft sentences in a way that supports the underlying logic of the ideas.	Essay Punch, Writing for Business
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