

**Massachusetts State Standards
correlated to
Merit Software Reading Comprehension Intermediate 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 Reading Comprehension Intermediate programs address the following Massachusetts State Standards:

Grades 5-6 pg. 1-2
Grades 7-8 pg. 2-3

Grades 5-6

Subhead	General Standard	Learning Standard	Merit Software
Reading	GENERAL STANDARD 4: Vocabulary and Concept Development Students will understand and acquire new vocabulary and use it correctly in reading and writing.	4.17 Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using context clues (definition, example).	Reading Shape Up Set 2, Accu-Reading Set 1, Developing Critical Thinking Skills Set 1, Reading Critically Non-fiction Set 1, Real World Reading Skills Set 2, Literature Based Reading Series 1
Reading	GENERAL STANDARD 8: Understanding a Text Students will identify the basic facts and main ideas in a text and use them as the basis for interpretation.	8.22 Identify and analyze main ideas, supporting ideas, and supporting details.	Reading Shape Up Set 2, Accu-Reading Set 1, Developing Critical Thinking Skills Set 1, Reading Critically Non-fiction Set 1, Real World Reading Skills Set 2, Literature Based Reading Series 1
Reading	GENERAL STANDARD 11: Theme Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of theme in a literary work and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.	11.3 Apply knowledge of the concept that theme refers to the main idea and meaning of a selection, whether it is implied or stated.	Literature Based Reading Series 1

Reading	GENERAL STANDARD 12: Fiction Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the structure and elements of fiction and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.	12.3 Identify and analyze the elements of setting, characterization, and plot (including conflict).	Literature Based Reading Series 1
Reading	GENERAL STANDARD 13: Nonfiction (Continued) Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the purpose, structure, and elements of nonfiction or informational materials and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.	13.17 Identify and analyze main ideas, supporting ideas, and supporting details.	Reading Shape Up Set 2, Accu-Reading Set 1, Developing Critical Thinking Skills Set 1, Reading Critically Non-fiction Set 1, Real World Reading Skills Set 2

Grades 7-8

Subhead	General Standard	Learning Standard	Merit Software
Reading	GENERAL STANDARD 4: Vocabulary and Concept Development Students will understand and acquire new vocabulary and use it correctly in reading and writing.	4.20 Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using context clues (contrast, cause and effect).	Reading Shape Up Set 2, Accu-Reading Sets 1-2, Developing Critical Thinking Skills Set 2, Reading Critically for Non-fiction Set 2, Literature Based Reading Series 1-2
Reading	GENERAL STANDARD 8: Understanding a Text Students will identify the basic facts and main ideas in a text and use them as the basis for interpretation.	8.25 Interpret a character's traits, emotions, or motivation and give supporting evidence from a text.	Literature Based Reading Series 1-2
Reading	GENERAL STANDARD 8: Understanding a Text Students will identify the basic facts and main ideas in a text and use them as the basis for interpretation.	For informational/expository texts: 8.27 Identify evidence used to support an argument.	Reading Shape Up Set 2, Accu-Reading Sets 1-2, Developing Critical Thinking Skills Set 2, Reading Critically for Non-fiction Set 2
Reading	GENERAL STANDARD 12: Fiction Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the structure and elements of fiction and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.	12.4 Locate and analyze elements of plot and characterization and then use an understanding of these elements to determine how qualities of the central characters influence the resolution of the conflict.	Literature Based Reading Series 1-2

Reading	GENERAL STANDARD 13: Nonfiction (Continued) Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the purpose, structure, and elements of nonfiction or informational materials and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.	13.21 Recognize use of arguments for and against an issue.	Reading Shape Up Set 2, Accu-Reading Sets 1-2, Developing Critical Thinking Skills Set 2, Reading Critically for Non-fiction Set 2
Reading	GENERAL STANDARD 13: Nonfiction (Continued) Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the purpose, structure, and elements of nonfiction or informational materials and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.	13.22 Identify evidence used to support an argument.	Reading Shape Up Set 2, Accu-Reading Sets 1-2, Developing Critical Thinking Skills Set 2, Reading Critically for Non-fiction Set 2