

New Mexico Language Arts Curriculum Framework Correlated to Merit Software Process Writing Programs

K-4 Benchmarks II-B: Apply grammatical and language conventions to communicate

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1. Use correct subject/verb agreement.
2. Use correct capitalization and punctuation.
3. Use a variety of complete sentences (declarative, imperative, interrogative, and exclamatory) in writing and speaking.
4. Compose two or more paragraphs with:
 - topic sentences
 - supporting details
 - appropriate, logical sequence
 - sufficient elaboration
5. Use strategies for spelling (e.g., sound patterns, visual patterns, silent letters).
6. Proofread own writing for spelling and edit (with assistance) for language conventions and format.
7. Create readable documents with legible handwriting.
8. Write compositions that have few significant errors in:
 - use of pronouns
 - adjectives
 - adverbial forms
 - coordinating conjunctions
9. Create and deliver recitations and presentations about familiar experiences or interests that are organized around a coherent statement.
10. Demonstrate a command of standard English when speaking.

4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use simple and compound sentences in writing and speaking. 2. Combine short, related sentences with appositives, participial phrases, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases. 3. Identify and use regular and irregular verbs, adverbs, prepositions, and coordinating conjunctions in writing and speaking. 4. Use parentheses, commas in direct quotations, and apostrophes in the possessive case of nouns and in contractions. 5. Use underlining, quotation marks, or italics to identify titles of documents. 6. Capitalize names of magazines, newspapers, works of art, musical compositions, organizations, proper nouns, and the first word in quotations when appropriate. 7. Spell correctly roots, inflections, affixes, and syllable constructions. 8. Compose multiple paragraphs with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • topic sentences • specific, relevant details • logical progression and movement of ideas • coherence • elaboration • concluding statement related to topic 9. Speak in a manner that guides the listener to understand important ideas by using proper phrasing, pitch, and modulation.
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Merit Software: Starter Paragraph Punch

5-8 Benchmarks II-B: Apply grammatical and language conventions to communicate

Grade	Performance Standards
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write sentences that use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independent and dependent clauses • transitions • conjunctions to connect ideas 2. Identify and correctly use verbs that are often misused (e.g., lie/lay, sit/set, rise/raise). 3. Use colons and quotation marks correctly. 4. Spell most commonly used words accurately using a multi-strategy approach to learn new spellings. 5. Edit final product for grammar, language conventions, and format. 6. Create and deliver focused, coherent presentations that convey ideas clearly and relate to the background and interest of the audience using a variety of media. 7. Evaluate the content of oral communication.

6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences. 2. Use effective coordination and subordination of ideas to express complete thoughts. 3. Identify and properly use indefinite pronouns and present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect verb tenses to convey appropriate meaning. 4. Use verbs that agree with compound subjects. 5. Punctuate using commas that link two clauses with a conjunction in compound sentences. 6. Correctly spell frequently misspelled words (e.g., there, their, they're). 7. Demonstrate an awareness of language conventions and usage during oral presentations. 8. Identify and correct errors in everyday speech. 9. Support opinions expressed with detailed evidence and with visual or media displays that use appropriate technologies.
7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Place modifiers properly and use the active voice. 2. Identify and use infinitives and participles and make clear references between pronouns and antecedents. 3. Identify all parts of speech and types and structure of sentences. 4. Punctuate by correctly using hyphens, dashes, brackets, and semicolons. 5. Spell derivatives correctly by applying the spellings of bases and affixes. 6. Use a variety of sentences correctly by punctuating them properly and avoiding fragments and run-ons. 7. Apply the parts of speech to clarify language usage. 8. Choose language that is precise, engaging, and well suited to the topic and audience in a variety of oral presentations. 9. Use figurative language and varying speech patterns to convey meaning. 10. Analyze the effect on the viewer of images, text, and sound in electronic journalism. 11. Provide constructive feedback to a speaker concerning a speech's content, delivery, and overall impact. 12. Proofread, listen to, and monitor self to correct errors.
8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use correct and varied sentence types and sentence openings. 2. Identify and use parallelism to present ideas in a series. 3. Juxtapose items for emphasis. 4. Use subordination, coordination, apposition, and other devices to indicate the relationship between ideas. 5. Evaluate the use of dialects in standard and non-standard English. 6. Prepare an outline based upon a chosen pattern of organization to include an introduction; transitions, previews, summaries; a logically developed body; and an effective conclusion. 7. Revise writing for word choice, appropriate organization, consistent point of view, and transitions between paragraphs, passages and ideas.

Merit Software: Paragraph Punch

9-12 Benchmark II-B: Apply grammatical and language conventions to communicate

Grade	Performance Standards
9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and correctly use clauses (e.g., main and subordinate), phrases (e.g., gerund, infinitive, participle), and mechanics of punctuation. 2. Demonstrate understanding of sentence structure (e.g., parallel structure, subordination, proper placement of modifiers), and consistency of verb tense and voice. 3. Demonstrate control of grammar, paragraph and sentence structure, diction, and syntax.
10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate appropriate manuscript requirements that include title page, pagination, spacing and margins, and integration of source and support material (e.g., citations, reference lists, direct quotations) with appropriate punctuation and format. 2. Use systematic strategies to organize and record information (e.g., anecdotal scripting, annotated bibliographies).
11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate control of grammar, diction, paragraph, and sentence structure. 2. Use a variety of technology tools to present information appropriate for the purpose and audience. 3. Develop presentations by using clear research questions and creative and critical research strategies (e.g., field studies, oral histories, interviews, experiments).
12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate the ability to comprehensively, coherently, and concisely expound upon ideas.

Merit Software: Paragraph Punch, Essay Punch