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New ELA Standards

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The English Language Arts (ELA) Standards were revised and adopted by the Nevada State Board of Education on November 30, 2007. A group of 56 curriculum specialists, teachers, speech pathologists, University professors, a parent representative, and reading teachers met from March 8, 2006-March 20, 2007 to revise the 1998 English Language Arts Standards. It was important to fill any gaps, make sure that the language and skills of the standards were clear and consistent, as well as include vertical and horizontal alignment. This was accomplished by researching the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Standards, International Reading Association (IRA) Standards, National Reading Panel (NRP), as well as other state standard documents.

So what does this mean to Nevada Educators? The Revised 2007 ELA Standards must be taught during the 2008-2009 school year. The State Assessment Program will reflect these changes by including items on the CRTs and HSPE on the 2009 administration.

Some of the key components of the 2007 revised ELA Standards include:

- An introduction with important information about what is in the document as well as the philosophy behind how the document was created. Some of the important concepts from the introduction are: the standards are the floor not the ceiling.



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- The introduction also sets the purpose of how the term "with assistance" is used throughout the document. "With assistance" is used for scaffolding purposes to reflect that many skills require more than one year for a student to become proficient, students are provided support from teachers, peers, and other resources when appropriate, and/or, these skills are not state testable at this grade level.
- The standards are the minimum of what students should know and be able to do.
- The standards should not be taught in isolation (e.g., multiple standards can be taught within a single lesson). There is not enough time in the day to teach students all of the standards if you did one standard indicator at a time. Therefore, many standards should be taught together.
- Grade appropriateness, as defined by the revised ELA Standards, is determined by: the length of text, vocabulary, sentence complexity, layers of meaning, complexity of concept, and percentage of text versus pictures.

One of the most significant changes to the 2007 Revised ELA Standards has been to Priority Coding. The changes are as follows:

- **An "E"** on an indicator **will represent enduring knowledge** and may be tested using a performance task (e.g., constructed response, writing proficiency) at the state level.
- **An "I"** on an indicator **will represent important knowledge** which may be tested using multiple choice questions at the state level.
- **An "L"** on an indicator **will represent locally assessable** indicators
- **An "S"** on an indicator **will represent state assessable** (i.e., capable of being measured using a pen and paper assessment) and could also be locally assessed.

In the 1998 ELA Standards, there were 11 standards (Word Analysis, Reading Strategies, Literary Reading, Expository Reading, Types of Writing, Writing Process, *Writing (grammar)*, Speaking, Listening, *Group Discussions*, and *Research*). The *italicized* standards above were consolidated into 8 standards in the 2007 Revised ELA Standards (Word Analysis, Reading Strategies, Literary Text, Expository Text, Writing Process, Types of Writing, Listening, and Speaking). The changes can be viewed as follows:

Standard	Changes
Standard 1 Word Analysis	Phonological Awareness and Phonemic Awareness were added.
Standard 2 Reading Strategies	Reading Strategies will no longer be tested due to it being a process standard.
Standard 3 Literary Text	Literary Text includes: Point of View and Tone for grades 3 through High School... Language Skills (e.g., similes, imagery) for grades 2- High School... Theme for grades 4-High School... Irony and Mood for grades 5- High School...
Standard 4 Expository Text	Expository Text includes: Persuasive Text and Persuasion Techniques for grades 5- High School... Theme for grades 4-High School... Text Features for grades 2-High School... Distinguishing Fact and Opinion for grades 3- High School...
Standard 5 Writing Process	Writing Process includes: Convention and Grammar Skills within student writing...
Standard 6 Types of Writing	Types of Writing includes: Poetry Persuasion Personal and Professional Communication Research Other Modes of Writing
Standard 7 Listening	Listening includes: Content and Delivery Vocabulary Group Discussions
Standard 8 Speaking	Speaking includes: Directions Presentations Group Discussions Phonology Can be used for Speech and Language Specialists in IEP...

It is imperative that teachers teach students the language and vocabulary of the standards. Students are responsible for being able to read and understand terms that are in the standards. A glossary is provided in the back to the 2007 Revised ELA Standards to ensure that the definition of each term is consistent across the state. The 2007 Revised ELA Standards provides teachers across the state of Nevada with a clearer picture of what skills students should know and be able to do in order to become literate members of society.

Any questions or comments, please contact Tracy Gruber via email at tgruber@doe.nv.gov

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