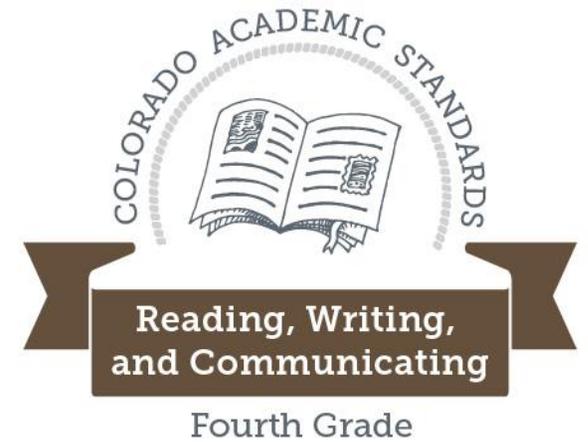


A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for Fourth Grade Reading, Writing, and Communicating. This guide offers some learning experiences students may engage in during this school year, experiences that may also be supported at home.

Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas – emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

Reading, Writing, and Communicating for Elementary Schools (k-5)

The Reading, Writing, and Communicating standards move from developing skills in reading, writing, and communicating to applying these literacy skills to more complex texts through the elementary years. Standards at each grade emphasize skills related to speaking and collaborating with others as students work with literature and informational readings and participate in individual and group research projects.

Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Vince Puzick, Reading, Writing, and Communicating Content Specialist at 303-319-9519, Puzick_v@cde.state.co.us



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At the end of
Fourth Grade,
students can...



**Reading, Writing,
and Communicating**

Fourth Grade



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Reading, Writing, and Communicating Learning Expectations for Fourth Grade

Oral Expression and Listening

Develop and use a plan to effectively convey information and use active listening strategies (asking questions, paraphrasing, body posture) to receive information.

Reading for All Purposes

Read literary (stories), informational, and persuasive books and articles with understanding and with fluency (with appropriate speed, accuracy, and expression) supported by a knowledge of spelling patterns, word parts (prefixes, root words, suffixes), and vocabulary (word meanings) especially when it comes to words with many syllables.

Writing and Composition

Use a writing process – planning, drafting, revising, editing, sharing – to produce a variety of stories, informational articles and essays, and opinion pieces for an intended audience and with a clear purpose.

Research and Reasoning

Use reading and writing skills to gather information – individually and in groups – and produce a written or oral presentation based on the new information gained from the research process.

Throughout the Fourth Grade, you may find students...

- Reading a variety of literature and nonfiction texts to understand different perspectives and perceptions; using strategies to understand texts (generating questions, summarizing, marking the text); making connections within and between different texts.
- Writing about texts to “think through” a response to a reading; using strategies to effectively share responses with group members; actively listening to others (paraphrasing, summarizing, and responding); reflecting on readings; making personal connections to texts.
- Exploring the decisions a writer makes in producing the piece of writing (the author’s “craft”); comparing different books, articles, or stories about the same topic; evaluating the use of illustrations or graphics in a text; explaining how writers use evidence to support ideas.
- Writing narratives to express experiences in the world; using evidence from texts to produce explanations or arguments; using research skills to answer questions about a topic; talking with peers and adults about how to improve writing; writing with accuracy and with a variety of sentence structures, appropriate vocabulary and word choice, and correct punctuation.