

English Language Arts

Our English Language Arts (ELA) program, or Reading, Writing and Communicating program, combines CKLA and classical methods with explicit phonics instruction aligned to the Science of Reading. The CKLA curriculum provides comprehensive resources, including teacher guides, student materials, and assessment tools, with Spanish language supplements to support our multilingual population²¹. This program ensures strong foundational literacy skills while building students' content knowledge and vocabulary through two complementary strands: the Skills strand for systematic phonics instruction and the Knowledge strand for building content knowledge and vocabulary.

This approach aligns fully with the Science of Reading, emphasizing the five essential components identified by research: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Through the CKLA Skills strand, students receive systematic, explicit phonics instruction following a research-validated scope and sequence. This instruction incorporates daily direct instruction in phonological and phonemic awareness, systematic introduction of sound-spelling relationships, practice with decodable texts that align with taught patterns, explicit instruction in morphology and word structure, and structured opportunities for building reading fluency.

The CKLA Knowledge strand complements this systematic phonics instruction by building the background knowledge and vocabulary essential for reading comprehension. This dual-strand approach aligns with research showing that both code-based and meaning-based instruction are necessary for reading success. All K-3 teachers receive extensive training in Science of Reading principles and practices to ensure effective implementation of Structured Literacy approaches, explicit phonemic awareness instruction, systematic phonics teaching methods, and research-based intervention strategies. This comprehensive approach to early literacy ensures that all students receive research-based reading instruction aligned with both state requirements and current scientific understanding of reading development.

The ELA curriculum fully aligns with CAS. The table below provides a snapshot example of this alignment, showing two Grade Level Expectation (GLE) codes per grade level (K-8). Each standard is rated on a 1-5 scale, with alignment notes explaining how the curriculum meets or exceeds standard expectations. For example, a Grade 8 standard earned a 5-Exceeds rating for its integration of civic analysis and classical debate techniques, effectively combining CKLA domain content with Skills strand comprehension and argumentation strategies.

Grade	CAS GLE Code	CAS Subheading Statement	MCA Curriculum	MCA Curriculum Rating	Rating Alignment Notes
K	RW.K.1.1	Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups	CKLA Knowledge Domain 1: "Nursery Rhymes and Fables" + Classical Recitation Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA oral language development and classical memorization; integrates Listening & Learning strand with Skills strand phonological awareness
K	RW.K.1.2	Sort common objects into categories to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent	CKLA Classification Skills + Classical Categorization Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA sorting activities and classical categorization techniques; integrates oral language development with cognitive organization skills
1	RW.1.1.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read	CKLA Knowledge Domain 2: "The Human Body" +	5-Exceeds	CKLA informational text comprehension

		aloud or information presented orally or through other media	Classical Inquiry Methods		and classical questioning techniques; integrates domain content with Skills strand comprehension strategies
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1	RW.1.2.3	Know and apply grade level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words	CKLA Skills Strand Phonics + Classical Decoding Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA systematic phonics instruction and classical sound symbol relationships; integrates Skills strand decoding with word analysis
2	RW.2.1.1	Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media	CKLA Knowledge Domain 2: "Early Asian Civilizations" + Classical Retelling Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA informational text retelling and classical narration techniques; integrates domain content with Skills strand comprehension strategies
2	RW.2.1.2	Create audio recordings of stories or poems; add drawings or other visual displays to stories or recounts of experiences when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings	CKLA Multimedia Presentation + Classical Storytelling Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA multimedia development and classical presentation techniques; integrates audio visual creation with narrative expression

3	RW.3.1.1	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly	CKLA Knowledge Domain 1: "Classic Tales" + Classical Discussion Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA literary analysis and classical dialogue techniques; integrates domain content with Skills strand comprehension and discussion strategies
3	RW.3.2.3	Demonstrate understanding of	CKLA Word Study + Classical	5-Exceeds	CKLA vocabulary development and

		figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings	Language Analysis Methods		classical language study techniques; integrates Skills strand word analysis with figurative language comprehension
4	RW.4.1.1	Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally	CKLA Knowledge Domain 2: "Middle Ages" + Classical Paraphrase Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA informational text paraphrasing and classical summary techniques; integrates domain content with Skills strand comprehension

					n strategies
4	RW.4.1.2	Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes	CKLA Oral Presentation + Classical Rhetoric Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA presentation skills and classical rhetorical techniques; integrates Speaking & Listening strand with narrative development
5	RW.5.1.1	Listen to others' ideas and form their own opinions	CKLA Knowledge Domain 1: "Early American Civilizations" + Classical Opinion Formation Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA analytical listening and classical rhetoric techniques; integrates domain content with Skills strand comprehension and opinion development
5	RW.5.2.3	Read and identify the meaning of words with sophisticated prefixes and suffixes	CKLA Morphology Study + Classical Word Analysis Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA morphological analysis and classical word study techniques; integrates Skills strand vocabulary development with Latin/Greek roots

6	RW.6.1.1	Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study	CKLA Knowledge Domain 2: "World Religions" + Classical Analysis Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA media interpretation and classical analytical techniques; integrates domain content with Skills strand comprehension and interpretation strategies
6	RW.6.3.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences	CKLA Narrative Writing + Classical Composition Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA narrative development and classical storytelling techniques; integrates Writing strand with descriptive language and sequential structure
7	RW.7.1.1	Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats and explain how the ideas clarify a topic, text, or issue under study	CKLA Knowledge Domain 2: "The Scientific Revolution" + Classical Analysis Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA scientific analysis and classical analytical techniques; integrates domain content with Skills strand comprehension and media analysis strategies

7	RW.7.3.1	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence	CKLA Argumentative Writing + Classical Rhetoric Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA argument development and classical rhetorical techniques; integrates Writing strand with logical reasoning and evidence presentation
8	RW.8.1.1	Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats and evaluate the motives behind its presentation	CKLA Knowledge Domain 2: "The Civil War" + Classical Media Analysis Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA historical media analysis and classical evaluation techniques; integrates

					domain content with Skills strand comprehension and critical analysis strategies
8	RW.8.3.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience	CKLA Writing Studio + Classical Composition Methods	5-Exceeds	CKLA writing development and classical composition techniques; integrates Skills strand grammar and mechanics with rhetorical style

Additionally, the below table provides an illustrative sample of how these standards are implemented in the classroom, highlighting some specific approaches and adaptations that support diverse learners. For each standard shown, the table demonstrates potential core instructional approaches, advanced learner extensions, and key adaptations for English language learners and students with different learning needs. These examples represent only a small portion of the ongoing curriculum adaptation work. The MCA curriculum continues to be refined to ensure both high academic standards and accessible, culturally responsive learning opportunities for all students.

Grade	CAS GLE Code	MCA Basic Instruction Approach	MCA Advanced Learners Extension	MCA ELL/MLL Adaptations	MCA Executive Functioning Adaptations
K	RW.K.1.1	Direct instruction using CKLA read alouds + systematic discussion practice + classical memory work + daily oral language routines	Advanced storytelling techniques + fable analysis + classical memorization + extended retellings incorporating domain vocabulary	Visual conversation guides + bilingual story cards + domain-specific picture supports + cultural folktale connections	Organized discussion routines + clear retelling procedures + domain vocabulary charts + progress monitoring
K	RW.K.1.2	Direct instruction using CKLA sorting activities + structured categorization + classical classification methods + daily practice	Advanced sorting strategies + category analysis + classical organization patterns + extended investigations	Visual category guides + bilingual sorting cards + classification supports + cultural object connections	Organized sorting routines + clear classification procedures + progress monitoring + category tracking