

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 Fifth 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
Fifth Grade,
students can...



**Reading, Writing,
and Communicating**

Fifth Grade



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Reading, Writing, and Communicating Learning Expectations for Fifth Grade

Oral Expression and Listening

Speak to an audience to express an opinion, to persuade, or to explain an idea/process; actively listen during a presentation using listening strategies (asking questions, paraphrasing, and displaying positive body posture).

Reading for All Purposes

Read literary (stories and poems), informational, and persuasive texts in order to understand, interpret, and compare ideas from a variety of authors.

Writing and Composition

Use a writing process – planning, drafting, revising, editing, sharing – to produce effective, unique, well-researched, and grammatically correct writing for different audiences and purposes (telling a story, explaining a topic, building an argument).

Research and Reasoning

Gather and organize information from different sources and produce a well-organized, well-thought-out written or verbal presentation that answers a specific question.

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

- Reading stories and informational texts to gain new understandings of the world and its people; using different strategies to understand complex texts (generating questions, summarizing, marking the text); working individually and with others to deepen understanding on a topic or text; making connections within and between different texts.
- Writing about texts as they “think through” ideas; directly quoting from the sources to support explanations; sharing writing ideas with others; generating questions based on reading to do research; reflecting on reading.
- Exploring the decisions a writer makes; critiquing a writer’s reasoning; comparing different authors’ writings about the same topic; evaluating graphics in texts.
- Writing narratives (stories) to convey experiences in the world; conducting short research projects; using evidence from sources to produce logical and well-informed presentations; using a variety of sentence structures and effective organization; using grammar and punctuation with accuracy; using technology to produce writing.