

# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## KINDERGARTEN

| Standard                                    | Description  | Merriam-Webster Offering  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>LANGUAGE</b>                             |  |   |
| Vocabulary and Concept Development 4.2      | Describe common objects and events in general and specific language.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> , especially designed for students in grades K–2, offers suggestions for more specific descriptive words at some entries (such as names for various kinds of footwear at the entry for <i>shoe</i> ).   |
| Structure and Origins of Modern English 5.1 | Use language to express spatial and temporal relationships (up, down, before, after).  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> has entries for words representing different parts of speech, including adverbs. Definitions are written in the form of explanations that are easy for young students to understand, and detailed illustrations help with meanings of words and concepts.   |
| Structure and Origins of Modern English 5.2 | Recognize that the names of things can also be the names of actions.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> gives part-of-speech labels for each entry word, and many entries show and explain the entry word as more than one part of speech—for example, <i>itch</i> as both a noun and a verb.   |
| Structure and Origins of Modern English 5.3 | Identify correct capitalization for names and places.  | Some entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> use the entry word as part of a proper noun (for example, <i>Mother Goose</i> at the entry for <i>mother</i> and <i>Rocky Mountains</i> at the entry for <i>mountain</i> ).   |
| Structure and Origins of Modern English 5.4 | Identify appropriate end marks (periods, question marks).  | Students see different kinds of end punctuation with <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> amidst its variety of things to read, such as clever comments that end with exclamation points and riddles that end with question marks.   |
| <b>READING AND LITERATURE</b>               |  |   |
| Beginning Reading 7.1                       | Demonstrate understanding of the forms and functions of written English: ... identify upper- and lower-case letters; recognize that written words are separated by spaces; recognize that sentences in print are made up of separate words.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> (in the opening page for each letter) feature big, bold, and colorful illustrations of both uppercase and lowercase letters. Each page in the dictionary shows the featured alphabet letter highlighted in yellow, the entry words in contrasting red, and short sentences built around those words in blue. |
| Beginning Reading 7.2                       | Demonstrate orally that phonemes exist and that they can be isolated and manipulated: ... recognize and produce rhyming words; identify the initial, medial, and final sounds of a word.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> offer unique opportunities for students to identify rhyming words and to produce their own when they hear the lively and engaging alphabet rhymes. The entertaining poems also show how words change when beginning, middle, and ending sounds change.   |
| Beginning Reading 7.3                       | Use letter-sound knowledge to identify unfamiliar words in print and gain meaning: ... recognize letter-sound matches by naming and identifying each letter of the alphabet; understand that written words are composed of letters that represent sounds; use letter-sound matches to decode simple words. | The alphabet rhymes in <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> introduce the sound and shape of letters and show words that begin with, end with, or contain the letter within the word.   |

continued

# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## KINDERGARTEN, *continued*

| Standard  | Description   | Merriam-Webster Offering   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>READING AND LITERATURE, <i>continued</i></b>                   |   |  |
| <b>Understanding a Text 8.4</b>                                   | Make predictions about the content of the text using prior knowledge and text features (title, captions, illustrations).  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> has an abundance of detailed and colorful illustrations that help with meanings of words and concepts.   |
| <b>Understanding a Text 8.5</b>                                   | Retell important facts from a text heard or read.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> , with its entries filled with things to know about words, offers opportunities for student discussions about the meanings, uses, and history of words.  |
| <b>Nonfiction 13.1-2</b>  | Identify and use knowledge of common textual features (title, headings, captions, key words, table of contents).<br><br>Identify and use knowledge of common graphic features (illustrations, type size). | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> incorporates boxes, shading, icons, boldface and italic print, varying type sizes, and other text features to point students to word histories, synonyms, word riddles, fun word facts, and more. A "Here's How To Use Your Dictionary" section uses example pages to show students the meaning of all the features. |
| <b>Poetry 14.1</b>  | Identify a regular beat and similarities of sounds in words in responding to rhythm and rhyme in poetry.  | Students will hear rhythm and rhyme as well as alliteration in the alphabet poems in <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> .  |
| <b>Myth, Traditional Narrative, and Classical Literature 16.1</b> | Identify familiar forms of traditional literature (Mother Goose rhymes, fairy tales, lullabies) read aloud.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> offers short tales and nursery rhymes interspersed throughout the book.  |
| <b>COMPOSITION</b>  |   |  |
| <b>Revising 21.1</b>  | After writing or dictating a composition, identify words and phrases that could be added to make the thought clearer, more logical, or more expressive.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> is filled with suggestions for words students can use to make their writing more expressive (for example, the synonyms <i>yell</i> , <i>scream</i> , <i>bellow</i> , and <i>shriek</i> at the entry for <i>shout</i> ).  |

# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## GRADES ONE AND TWO

| Standard   | Description   | Merriam-Webster Offering  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>LANGUAGE</b>                                    |   |   |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development 4.4</b>      | Identify base words and their inflectional forms.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> , especially designed for students in grades K–2, incorporates inflected forms of entry words into the explanations and example sentences at the entry.   |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development 4.5</b>      | Identify the relevant meaning for a word with multiple meanings using its context.  | Explanations in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> introduce students to the concept of multiple meanings and uses of words.   |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development 4.6</b>      | Identify common antonyms and synonyms.  | Many entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> include information about synonyms and antonyms.  |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development 4.7</b>      | Use knowledge of the meaning of individual words to predict the meaning of unknown compound words.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> gives many examples of compound words formed from entry words.  |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development 4.8</b>      | Determine the meanings of words by using a beginning dictionary.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> has definitions written in the form of explanations that are easy for young students to understand and detailed illustrations that help with meanings of words and concepts.  |
| <b>Structure and Origins of Modern English 5.1</b> | Use language to express spatial and temporal relationships (up, down, before, after).   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> has entries for words representing different parts of speech, including adverbs. Definitions are written in the form of explanations that are easy for young students to understand, and detailed illustrations help with meanings of words and concepts.             |
| <b>Structure and Origins of Modern English 5.2</b> | Recognize that the names of things can also be the names of actions.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> gives part-of-speech labels for each entry word, and many entries show and explain the entry word as more than one part of speech—for example, <i>itch</i> as both a noun and a verb.   |
| <b>READING AND LITERATURE</b>                      |   |   |
| <b>Beginning Reading 7.4</b>                       | Demonstrate understanding of the various features of written English: ... use correct spelling of appropriate high-frequency words, whether irregularly or regularly spelled.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> provides a section of frequently used words whose spellings students should master.   |
| <b>Beginning Reading 7.7</b>                       | Use letter-sound knowledge to decode written English: ...apply independently the most common letter-sound correspondences, including the sounds represented by single letters, consonant blends, consonant digraphs, and vowel digraphs and diphthongs. | The alphabet rhymes in <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> and in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> give short and long sounds of featured vowels and include words spelled with blends and digraphs. A special page at the end of <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> features the diphthong oo. |

continued ➔

# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## GRADES ONE AND TWO, *continued*

| Standard  | Description  | Merriam-Webster Offering   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>READING AND LITERATURE, <i>continued</i></b>                   |  |  |
| <b>Understanding a Text 8.9</b>                                   | Make predictions about the content of a text using prior knowledge and text features, and explain whether they were confirmed or disconfirmed and why.   | Detailed and colorful illustrations in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> help students with meanings of words and concepts (for example, a bird flying away from a cage to illustrate escape).   |
| <b>Nonfiction 13.1-2</b>  | Identify and use knowledge of common textual features (title, headings, captions, key words, table of contents).<br><br>Identify and use knowledge of common graphic features (illustrations, type size).                              | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> incorporates boxes, shading, icons, boldface and italic print, varying type sizes, and other text features to point students to word histories, synonyms, word riddles, fun word facts, and more. A "Here's How To Use Your Dictionary" section uses example pages to show students the meaning of all the features.   |
| <b>Poetry 14.1</b>  | Identify a regular beat and similarities of sounds in words in responding to rhythm and rhyme in poetry.   | Students will hear rhythm and rhyme as well as alliteration in the alphabet poems in <i>Merriam-Webster's Alphabet Book</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> .  |
| <b>Myth, Traditional Narrative, and Classical Literature 16.1</b> | Identify familiar forms of traditional literature (Mother Goose rhymes, fairy tales, lullabies) read aloud.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> offers short tales and nursery rhymes interspersed throughout the book.  |
| <b>COMPOSITION</b>  |  |  |
| <b>Revising 21.1</b>  | After writing or dictating a composition, identify words and phrases that could be added to make the thought clearer, more logical, or more expressive.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> is filled with suggestions for words students can use to make their writing more expressive (for example, the synonyms <i>yell</i> , <i>scream</i> , <i>bellow</i> , and <i>shriek</i> at the entry for <i>shout</i> ).  |
| <b>Standard English Conventions 22.2</b>                          | Use correct standard English mechanics such as: ... understanding and applying rules for capitalization at the beginning of a sentence, for names and places ... ; and using appropriate end marks such as periods and question marks. | Some entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> use the entry word as part of a proper noun (for example, <i>Mother Goose</i> at the entry for <i>mother</i> and <i>Rocky Mountains</i> at the entry for <i>mountain</i> ). Students see different kinds of end punctuation amidst its variety of things to read, such as clever comments that end with exclamation points and riddles that end with question marks. |

# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## GRADES THREE AND FOUR

| Standard                                       | Description   | Merriam-Webster Offering   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>LANGUAGE</b>                                |   |  |
| Oral Presentation<br>3.4                       | Give oral presentations about experiences or interests using eye contact, proper pace, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.    | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> can help ensure students use correct pronunciations when they give oral presentations. Pronunciation symbols are explained in the front of the book and presented in a key on every two-page spread. In addition, the free student dictionary at <a href="http://WordCentral.com">WordCentral.com</a> offers audio pronunciations.  |
| Vocabulary and Concept Development<br>4.9      | Identify the meaning of common prefixes.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes separate entries for all common prefixes and suffixes, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> provides a list of common prefixes and suffixes and their meanings.   |
| Vocabulary and Concept Development<br>4.10     | Identify the meaning of common Greek and Latin roots to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.                                  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> , especially designed for students in grades 3–5, features word root paragraphs that introduce students to Greek and Latin roots to aid understanding of unfamiliar words. A short and readable essay on “Greek and Latin Roots in English” explains the word root paragraphs. In addition, <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> has a list of common Greek and Latin roots with their meanings. |
| Vocabulary and Concept Development<br>4.11     | Identify the meaning of common idioms and figurative phrases.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has entries and definitions for hundreds of idioms in the form of defined run-on phrases at entries.  |
| Vocabulary and Concept Development<br>4.12     | Identify playful uses of language (puns, jokes, palindromes).   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes “Headscratchers” that feature palindromes, word play, and fascinating word facts.  |
| Vocabulary and Concept Development<br>4.14     | Recognize and use words with multiple meanings and be able to determine which meaning is intended from the context of the sentence. | Definitions in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> include multiple meanings with thousands of usage examples to help students determine what a word means in the context at hand. Many entries include quotations from classic and modern children's literature to illustrate meanings and enrich students' understanding of words.  |
| Vocabulary and Concept Development<br>4.15     | Determine meanings of words and alternate word choices using a dictionary or thesaurus.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> gives some definitions in the form of synonyms, which are defined in turn at their entry places, to help students choose alternate words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Thesaurus</i> are handy sources for synonyms, antonyms, and related words.  |
| Structure and Origins of Modern English<br>5.6 | Identify the four basic parts of speech (adjective, noun, verb, adverb).  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> features a part-of-speech label at all the entries, including run-on entries (such as the adverb <i>calmly</i> and the noun <i>calmness</i> at the entry for the adjective <i>calm</i> ), and all homographs are entered separately (such as the noun, verb, and adjective <i>calm</i> ).   |
| Structure and Origins of Modern English<br>5.8 | Identify words or word parts from other languages that have been adopted into the English language.                                 | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes thousands of borrowed words. In addition, it has 250 word history and word root paragraphs that explain how words or word parts from other languages came to be a part of the English language.  |

*continued* ➔

# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## GRADES THREE AND FOUR, *continued*

| Standard                                 | Description   | Merriam-Webster Offering  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>READING AND LITERATURE</b>            |   |   |
| <b>Beginning Reading 7.8</b>             | Use letter-sound knowledge to decode written English.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes "sounds paragraphs" at the beginning of each letter section that describe and illustrate the sounds a letter can make, from A as in <i>ability</i> to Z as in <i>quartz</i> .   |
| <b>Beginning Reading 7.9</b>             | Read grade-appropriate imaginative/literary and informational/expository text with comprehension.                 | The nearly 1,300 quotations from classic and contemporary children's literature in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> encourage interest in reading. A list of quoted works can be used by students, parents, and teachers as a source of recommended books.  |
| <b>COMPOSITION</b>                       |   |   |
| <b>Writing 19.10</b>                     | Write short poems that contain simple sense details.  | Students will enjoy using <i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> with its alphabetical listing of rhyming sounds for writing poems with rhyme.   |
| <b>Revising 21.3</b>                     | Improve word choice by using dictionaries.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has grade-level-appropriate definitions to help students improve word choice. To help them even further, more than 120 synonym paragraphs describe and illustrate the differences among some 400 close synonyms.   |
| <b>Standard English Conventions 22.4</b> | Use knowledge of correct mechanics, usage, and sentence structure when writing and editing.                       | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes "A Guide for Writers" section covering the mechanics of capitalization and punctuation, with many examples to show correct application of the rules. The dictionary's thousands of usage examples illustrate standard usage, and "Headscratchers" and "Hints" help students further understand confusing usage. |
| <b>Standard English Conventions 22.5</b> | Use knowledge of letter sounds, word parts, word segmentation, and syllabication to monitor and correct spelling. | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> provides correct spellings for more than 36,000 commonly used words, including many proper nouns, variant spellings, and open, closed, and hyphenated compounds. Students can use the special geographical names section to check spelling of hundreds of place-names.   |
| <b>Standard English Conventions 22.6</b> | Spell most commonly used homophones correctly.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> features a list of confusable words and their meanings.   |

# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## GRADES FIVE AND SIX

| Standard   | Description   | Merriam-Webster Offering  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>LANGUAGE</b>                                    |   |   |
| <b>Oral Presentation 3.8</b>                       | Give oral presentations for various purposes, showing appropriate changes in delivery and using language for dramatic effect. | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> , with their easy-to-understand pronunciation symbols, can help ensure students use correct pronunciations when they give oral presentations. In addition, the free student dictionary at <a href="http://WordCentral.com">WordCentral.com</a> offers audio pronunciations.   |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development 4.17</b>     | Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using context clues.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> , especially written for students in grades 3–5, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> , for students in grades 6–8, give multiple meanings of words with thousands of usage examples to make it easier for students to determine what a word means in the context at hand.   |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development 4.18</b>     | Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using knowledge of common Greek and Latin roots, suffixes, and prefixes.            | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> features word root paragraphs that introduce students to Greek and Latin roots to aid understanding of unfamiliar words. A short and readable essay on "Greek and Latin Roots in English" explains the word root paragraphs. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> provides lists of common Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes, and roots with their meanings and examples of words that contain them. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes nearly 3,000 etymologies giving the roots and origins of words.                   |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development 4.19</b>     | Determine pronunciations, meanings, alternate word choices, and parts of speech using dictionaries and thesauruses.           | Students can rely on <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> for pronunciations, definitions, and parts of speech. They can use <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> with its wealth of synonyms, antonyms, and related and contrasted words to expand their choice of words. They will also enjoy using <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> (which combines dictionary and thesaurus entries), as well as the handy <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> . |
| <b>Structure and Origins of Modern English 5.9</b> | Identify the eight basic parts of speech.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> give a part-of-speech label at all the entries, including run-on entries (such as the adverb <i>calmly</i> and the noun <i>calmness</i> at the entry for the adjective <i>calm</i> ) and all homographs are entered separately (such as the adverb, pronoun, and noun <i>there</i> ) to help familiarize students with all the parts of speech.   |

continued 

# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## GRADES FIVE AND SIX, *continued*

| Standard                          | Description  | Merriam-Webster Offering   |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>READING AND LITERATURE</b>     |  |  |
| Style and Language 15.4           | Identify and analyze the importance of shades of meaning in determining word choice in a piece of literature.  | More than 120 synonym paragraphs in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> describe and illustrate the differences among some 400 close synonyms. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes nearly 200 synonym paragraphs. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> lists words under a shared meaning core, and provides an example sentence to illustrate every word in its synonym lists so students can better understand how shades of meaning determine word choice.  |
| <b>COMPOSITION</b>                |  |  |
| Writing 19.15                     | Write poems using poetic techniques, figurative language, and graphic elements.  | Students will enjoy using <i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> with its alphabetical listing of rhyming sounds for writing poems with rhyme.  |
| Revising 21.5                     | Improve word choice by using dictionaries or thesauruses.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> offer grade-level-appropriate definitions and thousands of usage examples to help students choose the right words. Synonym paragraphs in both dictionaries further help students select words with precision. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> offers example sentences for every synonym to help students make distinctions between words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> integrates thesaurus entries with dictionary entries to help guide word choice. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Thesaurus</i> are handy sources for synonyms, antonyms, and related words.              |
| Standard English Conventions 22.7 | Use additional knowledge of correct mechanics (apostrophes, quotation marks, comma use in compound sentences, paragraph indentations), correct sentence structure, and correct standard English spelling (commonly used homophones) when writing, revising, and editing.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes "A Guide for Writers" section covering the mechanics of capitalization and punctuation, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> features "A Handbook of Style" section that covers the same topics in more depth. Both dictionaries can be relied upon to provide correct spellings for thousands of commonly used words, including many proper nouns, variant spellings, and open, closed, and hyphenated compounds. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> present the rules of punctuation and capitalization in a way that is easy for students to follow, with examples of correct application of the guidelines. |
| Research 24.3                     | Apply steps for obtaining information from a variety of sources, organizing information, documenting sources, and presenting research in individual and group projects: use an expanded range of print and non-print sources (atlases, databases, electronic, online resources); ... and provide appropriate documentation in a consistent format. | Students will enjoy using the full-color maps in <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Atlas</i> and the full-color maps, charts, and graphs in the trade paperback <i>Merriam-Webster's Student Atlas</i> , both especially designed for students in grades 5 and up, to find out geographical information of all sorts. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> has a section on bibliographies that introduces students to the basics of documenting the sources they use in their research. <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> contains detailed information on how to cite online as well as other nonprint sources.  |



# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## GRADES SEVEN AND EIGHT

| Standard   | Description  | Merriam-Webster Offering  |
|--|--|---|
| <b>LANGUAGE</b>  |  |   |
| <b>Oral Presentation</b><br>3.12                       | Give oral presentations to different audiences for various purposes, showing appropriate changes in delivery and using language for dramatic effect. | <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> is especially written for students in grades 6–8. Its easy-to-understand pronunciation symbols can help ensure students use correct pronunciations when they give oral presentations. In addition, the free student dictionary at <a href="http://WordCentral.com">WordCentral.com</a> offers audio pronunciations.  |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development</b><br>4.20      | Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using context clues.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> , with nearly 70,000 entries, gives multiple meanings of words with thousands of usage examples to make it easier for students to determine what a word means in the context at hand. More advanced students may want to use <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , which has more than 85,000 entries.  |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development</b><br>4.21      | Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words by using knowledge of common Greek and Latin roots, suffixes, and prefixes.                                | <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> provides lists of common Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes, and roots with their meanings and examples of words that contain them. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes nearly 3,000 etymologies giving the roots and origins of words.   |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development</b><br>4.22      | Determine pronunciations, meanings, alternate word choices, parts of speech, or etymologies of words using dictionaries and thesauruses.             | Students can rely on <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> for pronunciations, definitions, and parts of speech. The dictionary also includes nearly 3,000 etymologies. For nearly 20,000 etymologies, students can turn to <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> . They can use <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> with its wealth of synonyms, antonyms, and related and contrasted words to expand their choice of words. They will also enjoy using <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> (which combines dictionary and thesaurus entries), as well as the handy <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> . |
| <b>Structure and Origins of Modern English</b><br>5.22 | Describe the origins and meanings of common words, as well as of foreign words or phrases used frequently in English.                                | <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes 300 word history paragraphs that tell the story behind a word's adoption into English. Nearly 3,000 etymologies give origins and meanings of many borrowed foreign words.   |

continued 

# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## GRADES SEVEN AND EIGHT, *continued*

| Standard                          | Description  | Merriam-Webster Offering   |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>COMPOSITION</b>                |  |  |
| Writing 19.20                     | Write poems using poetic techniques, figurative language, and graphic elements.  | Students will enjoy using <i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> with its alphabetical listing of rhyming sounds for writing poems with rhyme.  |
| Writing 19.21                     | Write reports based on research that include quotations, footnotes or endnotes, and a bibliography.  | Students can use <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> for guidance in incorporating quotations into their text. Both references have a whole chapter on the subject that covers block quotations, omissions in quotations, and quoting verse, among other matters.   |
| Revising 21.7                     | Improve word choice by using a variety of references.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> offers grade-level-appropriate definitions, thousands of usage examples, and synonym paragraphs to help students choose the right words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> offers example sentences for every synonym to help students select the best word. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> integrates thesaurus entries with dictionary entries to help guide word choice. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> presents discussions of common problems concerning more than a thousand confusable words and phrases.                   |
| Standard English Conventions 22.8 | Use knowledge of types of sentences, correct mechanics, correct usage (pronoun reference), sentence structure (complete sentences, properly placed modifiers), and standard English spelling when writing and editing.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> features "A Handbook of Style" section covering the mechanics of capitalization and punctuation and provides correct spellings for nearly 70,000 commonly used words. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> present rules of punctuation and capitalization in a way that is easy for students to follow, with lots of examples of correct application of the guidelines. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> gives clear and concise answers to many basic questions about grammar and usage. |
| Research 24.4                     | Apply steps for obtaining information from a variety of sources, organizing information, documenting sources, and presenting research in individual projects: ... document information and quotations and use a consistent format for endnotes and footnotes; and use standard bibliographic format to document sources. | <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> have chapters explaining how to write footnotes, endnotes, and bibliographies according to the rules of standard style manuals. <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> contains detailed information on how to cite online and other nonprint sources, as well as guidance on incorporating quotations into text.   |

# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## GRADES NINE AND TEN

| Standard   | Description   | Merriam-Webster Offering   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>LANGUAGE</b>  |   |  |
| <b>Oral Presentation</b><br>3.14                       | Give formal and informal talks to various audiences and for various purposes using appropriate level of formality and rhetorical devices.                               | Students can make sure they are pronouncing words correctly for their talks by using the pronunciation symbols in <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> or by listening to the audio pronunciations on the free online dictionary at <a href="http://Merriam-Webster.com">Merriam-Webster.com</a> .   |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development</b><br>4.23      | Identify and correctly use idioms, cognates, words with literal and figurative meanings, and patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or functions.    | <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> is especially designed for students in grades 9–11. Its more than 85,000 entries and 100,000 definitions include thousands of idioms and expressions, cognates from different languages, and literal as well as figurative senses of words.   |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development</b><br>4.25      | Use general dictionaries, specialized dictionaries, thesauruses, or related references as needed to increase learning.  | Merriam-Webster offers a wealth of up-to-date, reliable reference sources that high-school students can turn to. They can use <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> or the comprehensive desk dictionary, <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> . They can also use <i>Merriam-Webster's School Thesaurus</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus</i> ; <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> , which combines dictionary and thesaurus entries; and the handy <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> . When they need a more specialized lexicon, they can turn to <i>Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Law</i> , or <i>Merriam-Webster's Geographical Dictionary</i> . |
| <b>Structure and Origins of Modern English</b><br>5.29 | Describe the origins of common words and foreign words or phrases used frequently in written English, and show their relationship to historical events or developments. | <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> offers nearly 20,000 concise etymologies and more than 200 expanded word history paragraphs that explain word origins. <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> offers more than 38,000 etymologies and includes a special section with over 700 frequently encountered foreign words and phrases.  |
| <b>Formal and Informal English</b><br>6.8              | Identify content-specific vocabulary, terminology, or jargon unique to particular social or professional groups.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , with its up-to-date content and examples that show how words are used, can help students understand content-specific vocabulary. For vocabulary in more advanced texts, students can turn to <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> . Both dictionaries offer usage labels where appropriate that tell if a word is slang or nonstandard. Students can look up specialized vocabulary in the areas of medicine or law in <i>Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Law</i> .   |

continued

# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## GRADES NINE AND TEN, *continued*

| Standard                          | Description   | Merriam-Webster Offering  |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>COMPOSITION</b>                |   |   |
| Writing 19.25                     | Write poems using a range of poetic techniques, forms (sonnet, ballad), and figurative language.  | Students will enjoy using <i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Rhyming Dictionary</i> , with their alphabetical listing of rhyming sounds, when they write sonnets and ballads.   |
| Revising 21.8                     | Revise writing by attending to topic/idea development, organization, level of detail, language/style, sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics.   | Merriam-Webster offers a variety of reference materials that students can turn to as they revise their writing. They can use <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> (both of which include "A Handbook of Style" section) for grammar and usage; <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> , or <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> to check on mechanics; and <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> for answers to common grammar problems. |
| Standard English Conventions 22.9 | Use knowledge of types of clauses, verbals, mechanics, usage, sentence structure, and standard English spelling when writing and editing.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> is designed to answer any usage issue a student is likely to encounter and includes helpful articles on sentence structure and word placement. <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> provides correct spellings for more than 85,000 words, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> has 165,000 entries.   |
| Research 24.5                     | Formulate open-ended research questions and apply steps for obtaining and evaluating information from a variety of sources, organizing information, documenting sources in a consistent and standard format, and presenting research. | <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> , and <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> give information on how to document all kinds of sources according to the conventions of standard style manuals.   |

# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## GRADES ELEVEN AND TWELVE

| Standard   | Description  | Merriam-Webster Offering  |
|--|--|---|
| <b>LANGUAGE</b>  |  |   |
| <b>Oral Presentation</b><br>3.17                       | Deliver formal presentations for particular audiences using clear enunciation and appropriate organization, gestures, tone, and vocabulary.          | Students can check their vocabulary and pronunciations when preparing formal presentations with <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> . They can also listen to the audio pronunciations on the free online dictionary at <a href="http://Merriam-Webster.com">Merriam-Webster.com</a> .  |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development</b><br>4.26      | Identify and use correctly new words acquired through study of their different relationships to other words.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> enables students to develop their vocabulary by using 250 Greek and Latin roots to determine meanings of many terms used in science, politics, technology, medicine, and more. It introduces more than 3,000 words in all, with entries organized by roots, and includes quizzes to test progress and reward study—a great help for students preparing for college-entrance tests.  |
| <b>Vocabulary and Concept Development</b><br>4.27      | Use general dictionaries, specialized dictionaries, thesauruses, histories of language, books of quotations, and other related references as needed. | Merriam-Webster offers a wealth of up-to-date, reliable reference sources that students can turn to. They can use <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , designed for high schoolers; the comprehensive desk dictionary <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> ; or <i>Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged</i> , with nearly 500,000 entries. They can also use <i>Merriam-Webster's School Thesaurus</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus</i> ; <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> , which combines dictionary and thesaurus entries; and the handy <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Thesaurus</i> . When they need a more specialized lexicon, they can turn to <i>Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Law</i> , and <i>Merriam-Webster's Geographical Dictionary</i> . |
| <b>Structure and Origins of Modern English</b><br>5.33 | Analyze and explain how the English language has developed and been influenced by other languages.   | More than 38,000 etymologies in <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> and 143,000 etymologies in <i>Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged</i> help students explore the development of the English language.  |
| <b>Formal and Informal English</b><br>6.11             | Analyze how dialect can be a source of negative or positive stereotypes among social groups.   | <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> provides usage labels to indicate when a word is nonstandard or slang or when its use is considered disparaging or offensive.  |

continued 

# Meeting the Standard in Massachusetts

Merriam-Webster Inc.  
www.Merriam-Webster.com



## GRADES ELEVEN AND TWELVE, *continued*

| Standard                           | Description  | Merriam-Webster Offering  |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>COMPOSITION</b>                 |  |   |
| Writing 19.29                      | Write poems using a range of forms and techniques.   | Students who write poetry that rhymes will enjoy using <i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Rhyming Dictionary</i> with their alphabetical listing of rhyming sounds.   |
| Revising 21.9                      | Revise writing to improve style, word choice, sentence variety, and subtlety of meaning after rethinking how well questions of purpose, audience, and genre have been addressed.   | Students can rely on <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> , which are up-to-date with vocabulary from today's world, as well as <i>Merriam-Webster's School Thesaurus</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus</i> , to choose the most effective words for their writing.   |
| Standard English Conventions 22.10 | Use all conventions of standard English when writing and editing.  | <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> has information students need for correct punctuation and capitalization and other styling conventions. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> provide ready assistance with punctuation and capitalization and include abundant examples that illustrate the rules. <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> provides invaluable guidance regarding potentially confusing or uncertain grammar issues and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> addresses many of these same issues in shorter form. |
| Research 24.6                      | Formulate original, open-ended questions to explore a topic of interest, design and carry out research, and evaluate the quality of the research paper in terms of the adequacy of its questions, materials, approach, and documentation of sources. | <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> give information on how to document all kinds of sources according to the conventions of standard style manuals.   |