

Meeting the Standard in Wisconsin

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GRADE FOUR

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
B.4.1	Write expressive pieces in response to reading, viewing, and life experiences (narratives, reflections, and letters) employing descriptive detail and a personal voice.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> is written especially for students in grades 3–5. It contains over 36,000 entries that include thousands of usage examples and can help students find and use the words they need in order to write with descriptive detail. More than 130 synonym paragraphs explain slight differences among closely related words to help students choose words with precision.
	Write creative pieces (poetry, fiction, and plays) employing basic aesthetic principles appropriate to each genre.	Students will find rhymes easily using the alphabetical listings of rhyming sounds in <i>Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Rhyming Dictionary</i> .
	Write in a variety of situations... and adapt strategies, such as revision and the use of reference materials, to the situation.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> provides support for students revising their work for spelling, synonym choices, and appropriate word choice. It also includes "A Guide for Writers" that can help students revise their writing for punctuation and capitalization.
B.4.3	Understand and use parts of speech effectively, including nouns, pronouns, and adjectives.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> presents the information students need to use parts of speech correctly. Every entry includes a part-of-speech label. All irregular plurals of nouns, comparative and superlative forms of adjectives, and irregular verb forms are given. Thousands of verbal illustrations provide examples of words in context.
	Use adverbials effectively, including words and phrases.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> gives all irregular comparative and superlative forms of adverbs. Many adverb entries give examples of usage.
	Employ principles of agreement related to number, gender, and case.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> contains brief discussions of more than a thousand sticky language issues, including matters of agreement. A grammar glossary directs students to the usage entries that deal with each grammar subject.
	Capitalize proper nouns, titles, and initial words of sentences.	"A Guide for Writers" section in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> introduces and explains the use of capitalization.
	Use punctuation marks and conjunctions, as appropriate, to separate sentences and connect independent clauses.	"A Guide for Writers" section in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> introduces and explains punctuation marks. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> offers discussions on the uses of conjunctions.
	Use commas correctly to punctuate appositives and lists.	"A Guide for Writers" section in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> introduces and explains the rules for commas.
	Spell frequently used words correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> provides correct spellings for more than 36,000 commonly used words, including variant spellings and irregular inflected forms.
	Use word order and punctuation marks to distinguish statements, questions, exclamations, and commands.	"A Guide for Writers" section in <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> introduces and explains punctuation marks and provides many examples of correct use in questions, exclamations, and commands.

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GRADE FOUR, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
C.4.1	Read aloud effectively from previously-read material.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> gives students the pronunciations they need to prepare for reading aloud. Its simplified pronunciation symbols are explained at the front of the book and presented in a key on every two-page spread. The free student dictionary at WordCentral.com offers audio pronunciations.
C.4.2	Understand a variety of word structures and forms, such as affixes, roots, homonyms, antonyms, synonyms, and word analogies.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has entries for common prefixes and suffixes as well as words formed with them. The dictionary includes 250 word history paragraphs and word root paragraphs that introduce Greek and Latin roots and show how English words are formed from them. Word root cross-references throughout the dictionary lead students to the paragraphs. The dictionary also features more than 120 synonym paragraphs that explain slight differences among closely related words.
D.4.1	Consult dictionaries, thesauruses, and other resources to find and compare definitions, choose among synonyms, and spell words correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> is written especially for students in grades 3–5. It contains over 36,000 entries that include multiple definitions for words, synonym paragraphs, and more, all accompanied by 900 full-color illustrations and diagrams as well as quotations from works of classic and contemporary children's literature to show how words are used and to enliven entries. WordCentral.com is a free website with a student dictionary and thesaurus.
	Use knowledge of roots, prefixes, and suffixes to interpret and convey the meaning of words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> has entries for common prefixes and suffixes as well as words formed with them. The dictionary includes 250 Word History paragraphs and additional Word Root paragraphs that introduce Greek and Latin roots and show how English words are formed from them.
	Identify common figures of speech and use them appropriately.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> includes entries for many idioms and expressions.

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GRADE EIGHT

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
A.8.4	Distinguish between the facts found in documents, narratives, charts, maps, tables, and other sources, and the generalizations and interpretations that are drawn from them.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Atlas</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Student Atlas</i> offer full-color maps, and the <i>Student Atlas</i> also has charts and graphs that students can use to analyze and interpret geographical and socioeconomic information.
B.8.1	Write creative fiction that includes major and minor characters, a coherent plot, effective imagery, descriptive language, and concrete detail.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> is written especially for students in grades 6–8. It contains nearly 70,000 entries, thousands of usage examples, and nearly 200 synonym paragraphs that explain slight differences among closely related words to help students choose words with precision. Students can also use <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> , which gives an example sentence for every word in its synonym lists.
	Write in a variety of situations... and adapt strategies, such as revision, technology, and the use of reference materials, to the situation.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> contains the words students in grades 6–8 need to know. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> is a grade-level-appropriate reference with nearly 20,000 entries presenting information on thousands of synonyms, related words, and antonyms. More advanced students may want to use <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's School Thesaurus</i> . Students can also use <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus</i> which combines dictionary and thesaurus entries in a single volume. <i>The Merriam-Webster and Garfield Dictionary</i> features more than 60,000 entries with selected entry words illustrated with a Garfield comic strip. WordCentral.com is a free website with a student dictionary and thesaurus.
B.8.3	Understand the function of words, phrases, and clauses in a sentence and use them effectively, including coordinate and subordinate conjunctions, relative pronouns, and comparative adjectives.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> has clear definitions and usage examples to help students use words correctly and effectively, and it gives all irregular comparative and superlative forms of adjectives. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> offers brief discussions on the use of coordinate and subordinate conjunctions and on relative pronouns. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> offers a grammar glossary where students can see at a glance what terms such as “coordinate conjunctions” and “subordinate conjunctions” mean.
	Use correct tenses to indicate the relative order of events.	Entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> show all irregular forms of verbs. The formation of regular verb forms is explained in the front of the dictionary.
	Understand and employ principles of agreement, including subject-verb, pronoun-noun, and preposition-pronoun.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> contains brief discussions of more than a thousand sticky language issues, including matters of agreement.
	Punctuate compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences correctly.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes “A Handbook of Style” section that describes the use of punctuation marks, capitalization, and italics. <i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> , and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> give guidance with common punctuation problems, including those involving clauses, and present the rules of capitalization with abundant examples.
	Employ the conventions of capitalization.	

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GRADE EIGHT, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
B.8.3 <i>continued</i>	Spell frequently used words correctly and use effective strategies for spelling unfamiliar words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> includes variant spellings and spellings of all irregular inflected forms. <i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> can help students improve their spelling skills. It introduces students to more than 3,000 words built from 250 of the most productive Greek and Latin roots, with entries organized by root and quizzes to test progress and reward study. WordCentral.com offers free grade-level-appropriate games that help with spelling skills.
C.8.1	Perform expressive oral readings of prose, poetry, and drama.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> can give students all the correct pronunciations they need in order to prepare for oral reading. WordCentral.com offers audio pronunciations with its free student dictionary.
D.8.1	Consult dictionaries, thesauruses, handbooks, and grammar texts when choosing words, phrases, and expressions for use in oral and written presentations.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> has nearly 70,000 entries and nearly 200 synonym paragraphs that explain slight differences among closely related words to help students choose words with precision. <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Thesaurus</i> is a grade-level-appropriate reference with nearly 20,000 entries presenting information on thousands of synonyms, related words, and antonyms. It provides an example sentence to illustrate every word in its synonym lists. <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Synonyms</i> are devoted entirely to brief explanations and usage examples that distinguish slight differences among synonyms to help students with word choice. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> helps students address sticky grammar and usage issues.
	Explain how writers and speakers choose words and use figurative language such as similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole, and allusion to achieve specific effects.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> has entries that define and exemplify the various figurative uses of language terms that students need to know about.
D.8.2	Describe how American English is used in various public and private contexts, such as school, home, and work.	Many entries in <i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> contain usage labels, such as <i>nonstandard</i> and <i>slang</i> . Examples of words in context also help clarify usage.
F.8.1	Use multiple sources to identify and locate information pertinent to research including... dictionaries.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary</i> is designed especially for students in grades 6–8. It contains nearly 70,000 entries that include multiple meanings, etymologies and expanded word histories, thousands of usage examples, synonym paragraphs, part-of-speech labels, and pronunciations. When an entry word has more than one meaning, those meanings are entered in historical order from oldest to most recent. More advanced students may want to use <i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> .
	Produce an organized written and oral report that... gives proper credit to sources.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> have chapters on notes and bibliographies that give students the rules of citing both print and nonprint sources.

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GRADE TWELVE

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
A.12.1	Apply sophisticated word meaning and word analysis strategies, such as knowledge of roots, cognates, suffixes, and prefixes, to understand unfamiliar words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> gives students the tools to determine the meanings of English words derived from 250 Greek and Latin roots. It introduces more than 3,000 words in all with entries organized by roots and quizzes to test progress and reward study. Etymologies in <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> help students learn meanings of affixes and roots and to recognize cognates.
	Write in a variety of situations... and adapt strategies, such as revision, technology, and the use of reference materials, to the situation.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> , with over 100,000 entries, and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> , with more than 165,000 entries, are a student's essential references in twelfth grade. <i>Merriam-Webster's School Thesaurus</i> is designed to help students express themselves with clarity and precision. <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus</i> is designed for college-bound students and other adult users. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> helps students address sticky grammar and usage issues. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> includes a grammar glossary and guide to proofreading. <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> has comprehensive articles and practical advice on thousands of difficult word usage and grammar construction issues.
B.12.3	Understand the form and function of words, phrases, and clauses, including interrelated clauses in complex sentences, and use them effectively.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> have clear definitions and abundant usage examples to help students use words correctly and effectively. <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> has articles that clarify issues of sentence construction, including subordinating and correlative conjunctions, dangling modifiers, and much more. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> provides a quick reference with brief discussions of more than a thousand sticky language issues.
	Employ principles of agreement, including subject-verb, pronoun-noun, and preposition-pronoun.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> include articles that clarify principles of agreement.
	Punctuate compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences correctly, including appropriate use of dialogue, citations, colons, hyphens, dashes, ellipses, and italics.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> both include "A Handbook of Style" section that explains the use of punctuation marks and capitalization. <i>Merriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Punctuation</i> each have a chapter that provides guidance on the correct use of punctuation marks and capitalization.
	Employ the conventions of capitalization.	

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GRADE TWELVE, *continued*

Standard	Description	Merriam-Webster Offering
B.12.3 <i>continued</i>	Spell frequently used words correctly and use effective strategies for spelling unfamiliar words.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary</i> include variant spellings and spellings of all irregular inflected forms. <i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> can help students improve their spelling skills. It introduces students to more than 3,000 words built from 250 of the most productive Greek and Latin roots, with entries organized by root and quizzes to test progress and reward study. Merriam-Webster.com is a free website featuring the <i>Collegiate Dictionary</i> and much more.
	Recognize common errors in the use of language and know how (and when) to correct them.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> gives advice on common usage problems and includes thousands of quotations that illustrate established usage.
C.12.1	Demonstrate confidence and poise during presentations, interacting effectively with the audience, and selecting language and gestures mindful of their effect.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> helps with word choice and provides the correct pronunciations students need for their presentations. The free <i>Collegiate Dictionary</i> at Merriam-Webster.com provides audio pronunciations.
D.12.1	Examine the origin, history, denotation, connotation, and usage of words by consulting dictionaries, thesauruses, handbooks, and other sources of information about language.	<i>Merriam-Webster's School Dictionary</i> features 200 word history paragraphs that tell the story behind a word's adoption into English. <i>Merriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder</i> features brief word histories for dozens of words from classical mythology and history. <i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> offers hundreds of synonym paragraphs that show connotative and denotative differences among close synonyms. <i>The Merriam-Webster Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to Synonyms</i> are devoted entirely to brief explanations that help students distinguish slight differences between synonyms with lots of usage examples to illustrate those differences. <i>Merriam-Webster's Pocket Guide to English Usage</i> and <i>Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary of English Usage</i> address common grammar and usage issues.
	Use language appropriate to the background, knowledge, and age of an audience.	When their intended audience is young, students can refer to an age-level-specific dictionary, such as <i>Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary</i> or <i>Merriam-Webster's Primary Dictionary</i> , to insure their language is at the right grade level. When their audience is learning English as a second language, they can refer to <i>Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Basic English</i> , <i>Merriam-Webster's Essential Learner's English Dictionary</i> , or <i>Merriam-Webster's Advanced Learner's English Dictionary</i> to find appropriate vocabulary.
D.12.2	Compare form, meaning, and value of different symbol systems—such as alphabets, signs, symbols—and expressions commonly used in another language.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary</i> has 24 tables in its main A–Z section, including an alphabet table showing five non-Roman alphabets. It also has a special section with signs and symbols and another with over 700 foreign words and phrases.
E.12.1	Produce findings in oral and written reports, correctly citing sources.	<i>Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation and Style</i> gives information on how to list sources in bibliographies and explains how to use footnotes, endnotes, and parenthetical citations.