

Alignment to National Curriculum Standards

(Alignment is derived from Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning. *Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K-12 Education*, 4th Edition. www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks)

Language Arts Benchmark

Standard 1: Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process

Level III (Grades 6-8)

1. Prewriting: Uses a variety of prewriting strategies
6. Writes expository compositions
8. Writes compositions about autobiographical incidents
10. Writes persuasive compositions
11. Writes compositions that address problems/solutions

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

1. Prewriting: Uses a variety of prewriting strategies
7. Writes expository compositions
8. Writes fictional, biographical, autobiographical, and observational narrative compositions
9. Writes persuasive compositions that address problems/solutions or causes/effects
11. Writes reflective compositions

Standard 8: Uses listening and speaking strategies for different purposes

Level III (Grades 6-8)

1. Plays a variety of roles in group discussion
2. Ask questions to seek elaboration and clarification of ideas
4. Listens in order to understand topic, purpose, and perspective in spoken texts
6. Makes oral presentations to the class

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

1. Uses criteria to evaluate own and others' effectiveness in group discussions and formal presentations
2. Asks questions as a way to broaden and enrich classroom discussions
3. Uses a variety of strategies to enhance listening comprehension
5. Makes formal presentations to the class

Standard 9: Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media

Level III (Grades 6-8)

1. Understands a variety of messages conveyed by visual media
2. Uses a variety of criteria to evaluate and form viewpoints of visual media

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

1. Uses a range of strategies to interpret visual media

Alignment to National Curriculum Standards

Historical Understanding Benchmark

Standard 2: Understands the historical perspective

Level III (Grades 6-8)

1. Understands that specific individuals and the values those individuals held had an impact on history
2. Analyzes the influence specific ideas and beliefs had on a period of history
6. Knows different types of primary and secondary sources and the motives, interests, and biases expressed in them

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

1. Analyzes the values held by specific people who influenced history and the role their values played in influencing history
2. Analyzes the influences specific ideas and beliefs had on a period of history and specifies how events might have been different in the absence of those ideas and beliefs
4. Analyzes the effects specific decisions had on history and studies how things might have been different in the absence of those decisions
10. Understands how the past affects our private lives and society in general
11. Knows how to perceive past events with historical empathy
12. Knows how to evaluate the credibility and authenticity of historical sources

Civics Benchmark

Standard 1: Understands ideas about civic life, politics, and government

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

8. Understands how the purposes served by the government affect relationships between the individual and government and between government and society as a whole

Standard 9: Understands the importance of Americans sharing and supporting certain values, beliefs, and principles of American Constitutional democracy

Level III (Grades 6-8)

2. Understands how certain values are fundamental to American public life

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

1. Understands how the institutions of government reflect fundamental values and principles
2. Understands the interdependence among certain values and principles
3. Understands the significance of fundamental values and principles for the individual and society

Alignment to National Curriculum Standards

Standard 11: Understands the role of diversity in American life and the importance of shared values, political beliefs, and civic beliefs in an increasingly diverse American society

Level III (Grades 6-8)

4. Knows ways in which conflicts about diversity can be resolved in a peaceful manner that respect individual rights and promote common good
7. Knows why it is important to the individual and society that Americans understand and act on their shared political values and principles

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

3. Knows examples of conflicts stemming from diversity, and understands how some conflicts have been managed and why some of them have not yet been successfully resolved
4. Knows why Constitutional values and principles must be adhered to when managing conflicts over diversity

Standard 14: Understands issues concerning the disparities between ideals and reality in American political and social life

Level III (Grades 6-8)

1. Knows some important American ideals
2. Knows why political and social ideals are important, even if they cannot be fully achieved
5. Knows how various individual actions, social actions, and political actions, can help to reduce discrepancies between reality and the ideals of American Constitutional democracy

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

1. Understands the importance of established ideals in political life and why Americans should insist that current practices be constantly compared with these ideals
2. Knows discrepancies between American ideals and the realities of American social and political life

Alignment to National Curriculum Standards

Standard 24: Understands the meaning of citizenship in the United States, and knows the requirements for citizenship and naturalization

Level III (Grades 6-8)

1. Understands that American citizenship is legally recognized full membership in a self-governing community that confers equal rights under the law; is not dependent on inherited, involuntary groupings such as race, gender, or ethnicity; confers certain rights and privileges
4. Understands the distinction between citizens and noncitizens (aliens) and the process by which noncitizens may become citizens

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

1. Understands the distinction between citizens and noncitizens (aliens) and the process by which noncitizens may become citizens
3. Knows the criteria used for admission to citizenship in the United States such as five years of residence in U.S.; ability to read, write, and speak English; proof of good moral character; knowledge of the history of the United States; knowledge of and support for the values and principles of American Constitutional government

Standards 27: Understands how certain character traits enhance citizens' abilities to fulfill personal and civic responsibilities

Level III (Grades 6-8)

1. Understands the importance for individuals and society of commonly held personal responsibilities such as taking care of one's self, supporting one's family, accepting responsibility for the consequences of one's actions, adhering to moral principles, considering the rights and interests of others, and behaving in a civil manner
2. Understands contemporary issues that involve personal responsibility

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

1. Understands the distinction between personal and civic responsibilities and the tensions that may arise between them
2. Understands how individuals and society benefit from the fulfillment of personal responsibilities such as supporting one's family and caring for, nurturing, and educating one's children
3. Understands the importance of each citizen reflecting on, criticizing, reaffirming basic Constitutional principles
7. Understands the importance of dispositions that foster respect for individual worth and human dignity such as compassion and respect for the rights and choices of individuals

Alignment to National Curriculum Standards

Geography Benchmark

Standard 10: Understands the nature and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics

Level III (Grades 6-8)

2. Knows ways in which communities reflect the cultural background of their inhabitants

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

1. Knows how cultures influence the characteristics of regions
2. Understands how human characteristics make specific regions of the world distinctive
4. Knows the role culture plays in incidents of cooperation and conflict in the present-day world

Benchmarks for Life Skills

Self-Regulation Benchmark

Standard 2: Performs self-appraisal

Level IV (Grades K-12)

4. Identifies basic values, and distinguishes values from personal preferences, needs, and wants
5. Determines appropriate behaviors that are used and should be adopted to obtain wants and/or needs

Standard 4: Demonstrates perseverance

Level IV (Grades K-12)

1. Demonstrates perseverance relative to personal goals
3. Persists in the face of difficulty

Thinking and Reasoning Benchmark

Standard 6: Applies decision-making techniques

Level III (Grades 6-8)

1. Identifies situations in the community and in one's personal life in which a decision is required
7. Identifies personal decisions in terms of the options that were considered

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

1. Analyzes decisions that were major turning points in history and describes how things would have been different if other alternatives had been selected
2. Analyzes current or pending decisions that can affect national or international policies and identifies the consequences of each alternative
5. Evaluates major factors that influence personal decisions
6. Analyzes the impact of decisions on self and others and takes responsibility for consequences and outcomes of decisions

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Working With Others Benchmark

Standard 1: Contributes to overall effort of a group

Level IV (Grades K-12)

1. Knows the behaviors and skills that contribute to team effectiveness
2. Works cooperatively within a group to complete tasks, achieve goals, and solve problems
3. Challenges practices in a group that are not working and proposes measures to enhance team effectiveness
4. Demonstrates respect for others' rights, feelings, and points of view in a group
6. Identifies the causes of conflict in a group and works cooperatively with others to deal with conflict through negotiation, compromise, and consensus
9. Contributes to the development of a supportive climate in groups

Standard 3: Works well with diverse individuals and in diverse situations

Level IV (Grades K-12)

1. Works well with those of the opposite gender, of differing abilities, and from different age groups
2. Works well with those from different ethnic groups, of different religious orientations, and of cultures different from their own

Standard 4: Displays effective interpersonal communication skills

Level IV (Grades K-12)

1. Demonstrates appropriate behaviors for relating well with others
2. Exhibits positive character traits toward others, including honesty, fairness, dependability, and integrity
3. Knows strategies to effectively communicate in a variety of settings
12. Demonstrates sensitivity to cultural diversity

Standard 5: Demonstrates leadership skills

Level IV (Grades K-12)

1. Understands one's own role as a leader or follower in various situations
4. Demonstrates and applies leadership skills and qualities

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Behavioral Studies Benchmark

Standard 1: Understands that group and cultural influences contribute to human development, identity, and behavior

Level III (Grades 6-8)

1. Understands that each culture has distinctive patterns of behavior that are usually practiced by most of the people who grow up in it
5. Understands that various factors affect decisions that individuals make

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

1. Understands that cultural beliefs strongly influence the values and behavior of people, often without their being fully aware of it, and that people have different responses to these influences
7. Understands that family, ethnicity, nationality, institutional affiliations, socioeconomic status, and other group and cultural influences contribute to the shaping of a person's identity

Standard 4: Understands conflict, cooperation, and interdependence among individuals, groups, and institutions

Level III (Grades 6-8)

1. Understands that being a member of a group can increase an individual's social power and also can increase hostile actions toward or from other groups or individuals
4. Understands how role, status, and social class may affect interactions of individuals and social groups
5. Understands how tensions might arise between expressions of individuality and group or institutional efforts to promote social conformity

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

1. Understands that conflict between people or groups may arise from competition over ideas, resources, power, and/or status
6. Understands that intergroup conflict does not necessarily end when one segment of society gets a decision in its favor, because the "losers" then may work even harder to reverse, modify, or circumvent the change
7. Understands that even when a majority of people in a society agree on a social decision, the minority who disagree must be protected from oppression, just as the majority may need protection against unfair retaliation from the minority
10. Understands that the decisions of one generation both provide and limit the range of possibilities open to the next generation
11. Understands that mass media, migrations, and conquest affect social change by exposing one culture to another, and that extensive borrowing among cultures has led to the virtual disappearance of some cultures but only modest change to others

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Health Benchmark

Standard 4: Knows how to maintain mental and emotional health

Level III (Grades 6-8)

2. Knows characteristics and conditions associated with positive self-esteem
3. Knows appropriate ways to build and maintain positive relationships with peers, parents, and other adults

Level IV (Grades 9-12)

1. Knows skills used to communicate effectively with family, friends, and others, and the effects of open and honest communication

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