

Figure 1.2: How to Read the CCSS ELA/Literacy Standards

ELA/literacy standards are organized in three main sections: (1) K–5 ELA, (2) grades 6–12 ELA, and (3) grades 6–12 literacy in history and social studies, science, and technical subjects. Three appendices accompany the main document: (1) “Appendix A: Research Supporting Key Elements of the Standards,” (2) “Appendix B: Text Exemplars and Sample Performance Tasks,” and (3) “Appendix C: Samples of Student Writing.”

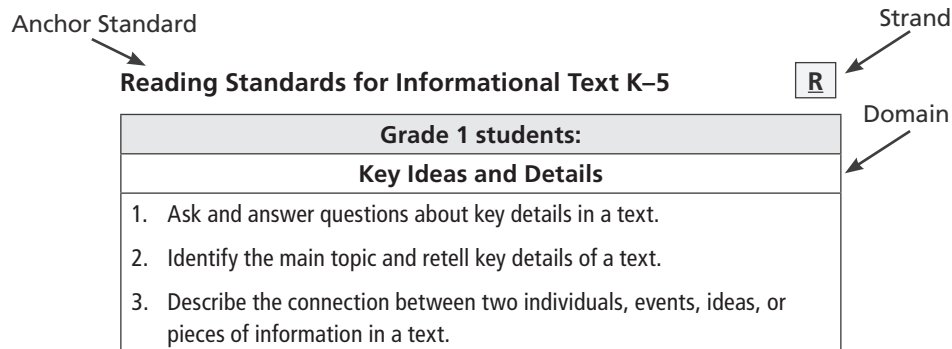
Strands are the components in each section for K–5 and 6–12: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. The Reading strand has two parts: Reading Standards for Literature and Reading Standards for Informational Text. In K–5, the Reading strand has a third part: Foundational Skills. The literacy standards focus on two strands: Reading and Writing.

Anchor standards define expectations for college and career readiness (CCRA). They define general, cross-disciplinary expectations for each strand: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. The anchor standards are numbered consecutively for each strand. For example, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1 signifies college and career readiness anchor standard (CCRA), reading strand (R), anchor standard one (1). The Reading and Writing strands for literacy in history / social studies, science, and technical subjects have anchor standards. For example, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.9–10.4 signifies writing strand (W), history (H), science (S), technical subjects (T), grade band (9–10), anchor standard four (4).

Domains define categories of anchor standards for each of the ELA strands. The domains are consistent across all the grades and ensure continuity as the standards increase in rigor and complexity. The four domains in the Reading strand are (1) Key Ideas and Details, (2) Craft and Structure, (3) Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, and (4) Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity.

Grade-specific standards define what students should understand and be able to do at the end of the year. These standards correspond to the anchor standard with the same designation. For example, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.1 signifies Reading Standards for Literature (RL), grade 6 (6), and standard one (1) in the domain Key Ideas and Details.

Grade bands are skills progressions by grade levels—K–2, 3–5, 6–8, 9–10, and 11–12.



Source: Adapted from NGA & CCSSO, 2010b, pp. 13, 20, and 66.