

K-12

BALANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS INSTRUCTION

In the Cobb County School District, balanced English Language Arts instruction means students regularly engage in meaningful opportunities to develop their abilities as readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and creators. Aligned with Georgia's K–12 English Language Arts Standards, instruction helps students make sense of the texts they encounter and supports them in expressing their own ideas clearly and purposefully.

FOUNDATIONS OF LITERACY

Instruction develops the essential foundations of literacy, centering oral language development as the bridge between speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

- In grades K–5, students engage in foundations instruction that emphasizes phonological awareness, concepts of print, phonics, handwriting, and fluency.
- In grades 6–12, students engage in foundations instruction that emphasizes vocabulary, language structures, verbal reasoning, and text structures.

LANGUAGE STRUCTURES

Instruction builds students' understanding of the structures and functions of language as tools for interpreting and constructing meaning.

- Students observe and use the structures and conventions of Standard English grammar and syntax in context.
- Students engage in vocabulary instruction that is explicit, recursive, and embedded in reading, writing, and discussion.
- Students use word analysis strategies (e.g., morphology, context clues) to determine and clarify the meanings of unfamiliar words and nuanced language.

INTERPRETING & CONSTRUCTING TEXTS

Instruction invites students to move fluidly between interpreting the ideas of others and constructing their own.

- Students engage with a wide range of texts across genres, formats, and perspectives.
- Students explore the relationships among author, audience, purpose, and context.
- Students produce multimodal texts that blend narrative, informational, and argumentative techniques to meet real-world purposes for real audiences.
- Students engage in inquiry, research, and synthesis practices.

LITERACY PRACTICES

Literacy practices are centered on four essential habits: approaching texts with purpose, understanding context and audience, noticing how texts are crafted, and collaborating to share ideas. These practices shape how students read, write, speak, and listen every day. As they reflect, respond, and create, students develop the skills and confidence to engage with the world around them.

