

6th Grade ELA Essential Standards

The identified Essential Standards are targeted for emphasis, indicating that there could be a higher proportion of questions on those standards in the AASA. The state assessment will retain the same length and duration. **ALL STANDARDS remain valid and subject to inclusion in each year's AASA.**

It is essential to recognize that decisions to omit certain standards at the elementary level will have significant repercussions in the secondary grades. Foundational knowledge and skills developed through these standards are critical for ensuring students' success as they progress in their education.

The following document provides justification statements for each essential standard as well as suggested related standards:

Reading Standards for Literature	
Essential Standard	Justification and Related Standards
Key Ideas and Details	
6.RL.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. <i>*Embedded and assessed in all other RL standards</i>	Justification: This standard is essential because it builds foundational skills for comprehension, critical thinking, and communication. It promotes close reading, develops analytical thinking, supports argumentation skills, and prepares for advanced literary demands.
	<i>*6.RL.1 is embedded and assessed in all other RL standards.</i>
6.RL.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.	Justification: This standard is essential because understanding the theme and/or central idea is key to understanding a piece of literature. Understanding the theme helps to support comprehension about what a piece of literature is communicating. It supports building inferencing skills and encompasses many other literary standards.

	6.RL.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
	6.RL.10 By the end of the year, proficiently and independently read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, in a text complexity range determined by qualitative and quantitative measures appropriate to grade 6.
6.RL.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	Justification: This standard is essential because a deep understanding is needed of character and plot development to analyze a theme and engage in text analysis.
	6.RL.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
	6.RL.10 By the end of the year, proficiently and independently read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, in a text complexity range determined by qualitative and quantitative measures appropriate to grade 6.
Craft and Structure	
6.RL.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as	Justification: Students must continually practice this skill as vocabulary increases in rigor throughout their academic career. Knowledge of vocabulary influences reading comprehension. It not only supports understanding of a literal meaning, but also of a connotative and/or figurative meaning to support overall understanding of a text.

they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.	6.RL.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
	6.L.3-7.L.6 Knowledge of Language Standards
6.RL.6 Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.	Justification: This standard is essential because understanding how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text is foundational for critical reading and comprehension.
	6.RL.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot
	6.RL.10 By the end of the year, proficiently and independently read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, in a text complexity range determined by qualitative and quantitative measures appropriate to grade 6.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	
6.RL.9 Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.	Justification: The standard fosters the ability to synthesize information across texts, an essential skill for research, writing, and real-world problem-solving.
	6.RL.7 Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they "see" and "hear" when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.
	6.RL.10 By the end of the year, proficiently and independently read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, in a text complexity range determined by qualitative and quantitative measures appropriate to grade 6.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Reading Standards for Information	
Essential Standard	Justification and Supporting Standards
Key Ideas and Details	
6.RI.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. <i>*Embedded and assessed in all other RI standards</i>	Justification: The ability to cite evidence to support claims is necessary for tasks like writing reports, crafting arguments, and analyzing news or research. In addition, this standard lays the foundation for higher-level reading and writing skills, which are crucial in later grades and standardized tests.
	*6.RI.1 is embedded and assessed in all other RI standards.
6.RI.2 Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.	Justification: This standard is essential because understanding the central idea of a text is key to understanding a piece of informational text. Understanding the central idea helps to support comprehension about what a piece of informational text is communicating. It supports building inferencing skills and encompasses many other RI standards.
	6.RI.6 Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.
	6.RI.7 Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

Craft and Structure	
6.RI.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.	Justification: Students must continually practice this skill as vocabulary increases in rigor throughout their academic career. Knowledge of vocabulary influences reading comprehension. It not only supports understanding of a literal meaning, but also of a connotative and/or figurative meaning to support overall understanding of a text.
	6.RI.7 Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
	6.RI.10 By the end of the year, proficiently and independently read and comprehend informational texts and nonfiction in a text complexity range determined by qualitative and quantitative measures appropriate to grade 6.
6.RI.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.	Justification: This standard is essential because understanding text structure is critical to comprehending an informational text. Understanding text structure helps them to understand main/key ideas and how ideas are developed by an author.
	6.RI.3 Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and developed in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).
	6.RI.10 By the end of the year, proficiently and independently read and comprehend informational texts and nonfiction in a text complexity range determined by qualitative and quantitative measures appropriate to grade 6.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	
6.RI.8 Trace and evaluate the argument and specific	Justification: This standard is an enduring standard and represents a building block for reading comprehension and for argumentative writing.

claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.	6.W.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.
	6.RI.10 By the end of the year, proficiently and independently read and comprehend informational texts and nonfiction in a text complexity range determined by qualitative and quantitative measures appropriate to grade 6.
6.RI.9 Compare and contrast one author's presentation of events with that of another author.	Justification: The standard fosters the ability to synthesize information across texts, an essential skill for research, writing, and real-world problem-solving.
	6.RI.6 Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.
	6.RI.7 Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

Writing Standards	
Essential Standard	Justification and Supporting Standards
Text Types and Purposes	
6.W.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.	Justification: This standard supports the writing process and is important for college and career readiness. This encompasses both academic and workplace skills.

	6.W.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.
	6.W.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
	6.RI.7 Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
6.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.	Justification: This standard supports the writing process and is important for college and career readiness. This encompasses both academic and workplace skills. This standard encompasses a variety of writing types and supports students in organizing information effectively.
	6.W.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.
	6.W.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
	6.RI.7 Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
Production and Distribution of Writing	
	Justification: This standard is critical to producing an appropriate piece of writing for a particular prompt. This is also part of the rubric for scoring

6.W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.	writing.
	6.W.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
	6.W.5 With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
	6.W.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.
	6.W.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Speaking and Listening Standards	
Essential Standard	Justification and Supporting Standards
Comprehension and Collaboration	
6.SL.2 Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, and	Justification: This standard equips students with critical skills for understanding, integrating, and evaluating information in a multimedia world.
	6.RI.3 Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and developed in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).

orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.	6.RI.7 Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
6.SL.3 Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.	Justification: This standard helps develop students' critical thinking and argument analysis skills.
	6.RI.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
	6.RI.2 Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Language Standards	
Essential Standard	Justification and Supporting Standards
Conventions of Standard English	
6.L.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.	Justification: This standard teaches students to express their ideas clearly and accurately in both written and oral formats. Effective communication is critical for academic achievement
	6.W.5 With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
	6.SL.6 Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

6.L.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.	Justification: This standard teaches students to produce polished and professional writing, ensuring they are prepared for both academic and real-world demands.
	6.W.5 With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.