

# Nebraska Language Arts Standards

## Grade 8

### **LA 8.1 Students will learn and apply reading skills and strategies to comprehend text.**

**LA 8.1.1 Knowledge of Print: Concept mastered at a previous grade level**

**LA 8.1.2 Phonological Awareness: Concept mastered at a previous grade level**

**LA 8.1.3 Word Analysis: Concept mastered at a previous grade level**

**LA 8.1.4 Fluency: Students will read a variety of grade level texts fluently with accuracy, appropriate pace, phrasing, and expression.**

LA 8.1.4.a Incorporate elements of prosodic reading to communicate text

**District Objectives:** Practice effective oral reading delivery techniques.

**District Tools:** Chorale Reading, Oral class novel reading

LA 8.1.4.b Adjust oral or silent reading pace based on purpose, text difficulty, form, and style

**District Objectives:** Student will have awareness of how to adjust their reading speed based on purpose, text difficulty, format and style.

**District Tools:** Observation and reading fluency passages.

LA 8.1.4.c Recognize and represent writer's tone and style while reading individually or in groups (e.g., choral reading, reader's theatre performances)

**District Objectives:** Recognize and represent writer's tone and style while reading individually or in groups

**District Tools:** Choral reading, reader's theatre performances

**LA 8.1.5 Vocabulary: Students will build literary, general academic, and content specific grade level vocabulary.**

LA 8.1.5.a Determine meaning of words through structural analysis, using knowledge of Greek, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand complex words, including words in science, mathematics, and social studies

**District Objectives:** Use prefixes, suffixes and roots to determine meaning of words.

**District Tools:** Vocabulary workshops and workbooks, Spelling

LA 8.1.5.b Relate new grade level vocabulary to prior knowledge and use in new situations.

**District Objectives:** Use previous knowledge to apply the meaning of new vocabulary.

**District Tools:** Gleaned from all subject matters.

LA 8.1.5.c Select a context clue strategy to determine meaning of unknown word appropriate to text (e.g., restatement, example, gloss, annotation, sidebar)

**District Objectives:** Use context clue, determine appropriate meaning of unknown word within given text.

**District Tools:** Vocabulary workbook

LA 8.1.5.d Analyze semantic relationships (e.g., figurative language, connotations, subtle distinctions)

**District Objectives:** Understand the meaning of words in context.

**District Tools:** Classroom discussions, Spelling, Reading text

LA 8.1.5.e Determine meaning using print and digital reference materials

**District Objectives:** Determine word meaning using print and digital references.

**District Tools:** Dictionary, Internet and electronic dictionary

**LA 8.1.6 Comprehension: Students will extract and construct meaning using prior knowledge, applying text information, and monitoring comprehension while reading grade level text.**

LA 8.1.6.a Analyze the meaning, reliability, and validity of the text considering author's purpose, perspective, and information from additional sources  
**District Objectives:** Understanding author's purpose and perspective in their writing.

**District Tools:** Research background information of author, setting and theme.

LA 8.1.6.b Identify and analyze elements of narrative text (e.g., character development, setting, plot development, conflict, point of view, inferred and recurring themes)  
**District Objectives:** Students will identify and analyze elements of fiction in a given text.

**District Tools:** Verbal or written quizzes, Novel study guide questions & discussions.

LA 8.1.6.c Analyze author's use of literary devices (e.g., foreshadowing, personification, idiom, oxymoron, hyperbole, flashback, suspense, symbolism, irony, transitional devices)  
**District Objectives:** Recognize and apply literary devices used by the author. (e.g., foreshadowing, personification, idiom, oxymoron, hyperbole, flashback, suspense, symbolism, irony, transitional devices)

**District Tools:** Discussion, practice, quizzes.

LA 8.1.6.d Summarize, analyze, and synthesize informational text using main idea and supporting details  
**District Objectives:** Recognize, interpret and apply the main idea and supporting details of nonfiction.

**District Tools:** Addressed in all academic areas of study.

LA 8.1.6.e Apply knowledge of organizational patterns found in informational text (e.g., sequence, description, cause and effect, compare/contrast, fact/opinion, proposition/support)  
**District Objectives:** Apply knowledge of organizational patterns found in informational text (e.g., sequence, description, cause and effect, compare/contrast, fact/opinion, proposition/support)

**District Tools:** Addressed across the curriculum through worksheets, research papers, projects and essays.

LA 8.1.6.f Analyze and evaluate information from text features (e.g., index, annotations, maps, charts, tables, graphs, headings, subheadings, lists)  
**District Objectives:** Review text and apply information (e.g., index, maps, charts, tables, graphs, illustrations, headings, subheadings) to prior knowledge.

**District Tools:** Textbook analysis.

LA 8.1.6.g Analyze and make inferences based on the characteristics of narrative and informational genres  
**District Objectives:** Understand genre characteristics and apply it to text at hand.

**District Tools:** Class and individual novel studies.

LA 8.1.6.h Analyze a variety of genres for the social, historical, cultural, and biographical influences  
**District Objectives:** Using prior knowledge, recognize the influences displayed in a variety of genres.

**District Tools:** Using prior knowledge, recognize the influences displayed in a variety of genres.

LA 8.1.6.i Use narrative and informational text to develop a national and global multi-cultural perspective  
**District Objectives:** Foster a national and global multicultural perspective by using narrative and informational text.

**District Tools:** Discussions-both class and small groups, Current Events, Videos/DVD's, Internet

LA 8.1.6.j Generate and/or answer literal, inferential, critical, and interpretive questions, analyzing and synthesizing prior knowledge, information from the text and additional sources, to support answers  
**District Objectives:** Using and applying prior knowledge, write and answer questions dealing with the following aspects: literal, inferential, critical, and interpretive questions.

**District Tools:** Study guides, chapter assessments and tests

LA 8.1.6.k Select text for a particular purpose (e.g., understand, interpret, enjoy, solve problems, form an opinion, answer a specific question, discover models for own writing)  
**District Objectives:** Select text for a particular purpose (e.g., understand, interpret, enjoy, solve problems, form an opinion, answer a specific question, discover models for own writing).

**District Tools:** Speeches, Essays, Research papers, Power point

LA 8.1.6.l Build and activate prior knowledge in order to clarify text, deepen understanding, and make connections while reading

**District Objectives:** Use prior knowledge to make connections to text.

**District Tools:** Discussion, Study Guides, Small groups, Essays

LA 8.1.6.m Self-monitor comprehension for accuracy and understanding when errors detract from meaning by applying appropriate strategies to self-correct

**District Objectives:** Self-monitor personal comprehension

**District Tools:** Teach self-monitoring comprehension techniques: Stop and check understanding of material at hand. Predict outcomes.

LA 8.1.6.n Make complex or abstract inferences or predictions by synthesizing information while previewing and reading text

**District Objectives:** While reading, apply previous knowledge and monitor details to make logical predictions.

**District Tools:** Classroom discussions, Partner share

LA 8.1.6.o Respond to text verbally, in writing, or artistically

**District Objectives:** Respond to text verbally, in writing, or artistically.

**District Tools:** Book reports, various projects, artistic interpretation of texts.

**LA 8.2 Students will learn and apply writing skills and strategies to communicate.**

**LA 8.2.1 Writing Process: Students will apply the writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit and publish writing using correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and other standard conventions appropriate for grade level.**

LA 8.2.1.a Use prewriting activities and inquiry tools to generate and organize information, guide writing, answer questions, and synthesize information

**District Objectives:** Use prewriting tools to generate and organize information for writing purposes.

**District Tools:** Cluster diagrams, KWL, Brainstorming

LA 8.2.1.b Generate a draft by:

- Defining and stating a thesis
- Structuring ideas and arguments in an effective and sustained way, following an organizational pattern appropriate to the purpose and intended audience
- Identifying and using parallelism to present items in a series and items juxtaposed for emphasis

**District Objectives:** Using indicators listed above, generate a rough draft.

**District Tools:** Generate outline and thesis to use for rough draft of five paragraph essay.

LA 8.2.1.c Revise to improve writing (e.g., quality of ideas, organization, sentence fluency, word choice, voice)

**District Objectives:** Revise own and peer writing using Six Traits.

**District Tools:** Six Traits, Practice various genre writing

LA 8.2.1.d Provide oral, written, and electronic feedback to other writers; utilize others' feedback to improve own writing

**District Objectives:** Revise own and peer writing using Six Traits.

**District Tools:** Class and/or school website, Peer editing, Rubrics

LA 8.2.1.e Edit writing for format and conventions (e.g., spelling, capitalization, grammar, punctuation)

**District Objectives:** Edit writing for format and conventions (e.g., spelling, capitalization, grammar, punctuation)

**District Tools:** Peer and self-editing, Checklists, Worksheets, 5 min. daily review

LA 8.2.1.f Publish a legible document that applies formatting techniques to contribute to the readability and impact of the document (e.g., fonts, spacing, highlighting, images, style conventions, manuscript requirements)

**District Objectives:** Publish a legible document that applies formatting techniques to contribute to the readability and impact of the document (e.g., fonts, spacing, highlighting, images, style conventions manuscript requirements)

**District Tools:** Research paper, Essays

**LA 8.2.2 Writing Genres: Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences in multiple genres.**

LA 8.2.2.a Write in a variety of genres, considering purpose and audience

**District Objectives:** Write in a variety of genres, considering purpose and audience.

**District Tools:** Reports, Essays, letters, speeches.

LA 8.2.2.b Write considering typical characteristics of the selected genre (e.g., business letter, report, email, class notes, research paper, play, web page/blog)

**District Objectives:** Write considering typical characteristics of the selected genre.

**District Tools:** Business letter, report, email, class notes, research paper, play, web page/blog)

LA 8.2.2.c Select and apply an organizational structure appropriate to the task (e.g., problem/solution, persuasion)

**District Objectives:** Write using the most effective organizational structure for the identified task.

**District Tools:** Teaching author's purpose, Essays

LA 8.2.2.d Analyze models and examples (own and others') of various genres in order to create a similar piece

**District Objectives:** Study and replicate another author's format in own writing.

**District Tools:** Poems, Short Stories, Essays

**LA 8.3 Students will learn and apply speaking and listening skills and strategies to communicate.**

**LA 8.3.1 Speaking Skills: Students will develop, apply, and refine speaking skills to communicate key ideas in a variety of situations.**

LA 8.3.1.a Communicate ideas and information in a manner appropriate for the purpose and setting

**District Objectives:** Communicate ideas and information in a speech appropriate for the purpose and setting

**District Tools:** Speech

LA 8.3.1.b Demonstrate and adjust speaking techniques for a variety of purposes and situations

**District Objectives:** Use a variety of speaking techniques for various audiences and purposes.

**District Tools:** Reader's Theatre, Chorale Reading, Speeches

LA 8.3.1.c Utilize available media to enhance communication

**District Objectives:** Utilize available media to enhance presentation.

**District Tools:** Power Point, Poster boards, Dioramas

**LA 8.3.2 Listening Skills: Students will develop, apply, and refine active listening skills across a variety of situations.**

LA 8.3.2.a Apply listening skills needed for multiple situations and modalities (e.g., video, audio, distance, one-to-one, group)

**District Objectives:** Select appropriate listening skills for a variety of situations.

**District Tools:** Audio Books, Note-taking, Discussions

LA 8.3.2.b Listen and ask questions concerning the speaker's content, delivery and purpose.

**District Objectives:** Listen and ask questions to evaluate the speaker's content, delivery and purpose.

**District Tools:** Critical Thinking Skills; Who, What, When, Why, Where, How questions; Question and Answer sessions

LA 8.3.2.c Listen to, analyze, and evaluate thoughts, ideas, and credibility of information being communicated

**District Objectives:** Listen to determine the message purpose and perspective of information being communicated.

**District Tools:** Recorded speeches, Audio books.

**LA 8.3.3 Reciprocal Communication: Students will develop, apply, and adapt reciprocal communication skills.**

LA 8.3.3.a Demonstrate sensitivity to the use of words (e.g., stereotypes, connotations, subtleties of language)

**District Objectives:** Demonstrate appropriateness to the use of words in general (e.g. stereotypes, connotations, subtleties of language)

**District Tools:** Classroom novel discussions

LA 8.3.3.b Interact and collaborate with others in learning situations by contributing questions, information, opinions, and ideas using a variety of media and formats

**District Objectives:** Demonstrate appropriate behavior in class discussions and conversations.

**District Tools:** Small group discussions, Speeches, Guest Speakers

LA 8.3.3.c Respect diverse perspectives while collaborating and participating as a member of the community

**District Objectives:** Respect ideas of others during group work.

**District Tools:** Group projects, Literary Circles, Partner activities

## **LA 8.4 Students will identify, locate, and evaluate information.**

**LA 8.4.1 Multiple Literacies: Students will research, synthesize, evaluate and communicate information in a variety of media and formats (textual, visual, and digital).**

LA 8.4.1.a Select and use multiple resources to answer questions and support conclusions using valid information (e.g., print, subscription databases, web resources)

**District Objectives:** Select, use and validate multiple resources to write and answer questions.

**District Tools:** Library, Internet, Computer literacy class

LA 8.4.1.b Demonstrate ethical and legal use of information by citing sources using prescribed formats and tools (e.g., online citation assistance, publication guidelines)

**District Objectives:** Demonstrate ethical and legal use of information by citing sources using prescribed formats and tools

**District Tools:** Computer literacy class, Bibliographies, Resources listed

LA 8.4.1.c Practice safe and ethical behaviors when communicating and interacting with others (e.g., safe information to share online, appropriate language use, utilize appropriate sites and materials, respect diverse perspectives)

**District Objectives:** Practice safe and ethical behaviors when communicating and interacting with others.

**District Tools:** Classroom discussions, Computer literacy, Student Handbook

LA 8.4.1.d Engage in activities with learners from a variety of cultures through electronic means (e.g., podcasts, video chats, distance learning)

**District Objectives:** Engage in activities with learners from a variety of cultures through electronic means.

**District Tools:** Podcasts, email, Pen Pal messaging

LA 8.4.1.e While reading, listening, and viewing, evaluate the message for bias, commercialism and hidden agendas (e.g., product placement, television ad, radio ad, movie, body image, sexism)

**District Objectives:** While reading, listening, and viewing, evaluate the message for bias, commercialism and hidden agendas.

**District Tools:** Current events, Discussion of TV and radio ads, body image sexism.

LA 8.4.1.f Gather and share information and opinions as a result of communication with others (e.g., video/audio chat, interview, podcast, multi-media presentations)

**District Objectives:** Gather and share information and opinions with others.

**District Tools:** Newsletter, Interviews, Snopes

LA 8.4.1.g Use social networks and information tools to gather and share information (e.g., social bookmarking, online collaborative tools)

**District Objectives:** Use district approved social networks and information tools to gather and share information.

**District Tools:** Computer literacy class