The foundation of language or word study is embedded and ongoing in balanced literacy instruction. In grades K-5, students are learning to become fluent and proficient readers and receive explicit instruction in phonics, spelling, and vocabulary. These foundational skills are reinforced in grades 6-12.

**K-12 BALANCED LITERACY INSTRUCTION**

**READING**
Engaging students with grade-level text is central to ELA/Literacy Instruction.

- Students regularly access at or above grade-level texts during direct instruction.
- Students closely read and interact with the grade-appropriate text around which instruction is centered.
- Students read a variety of nonfiction or informational texts, and fiction or literary texts.
- Students acquire and use grade-level vocabulary.

**SPEAKING & LISTENING**

- Students communicate about the texts they read with peers and adults.
- Students engage in rich and rigorous conversations about texts.
- Students use evidence or examples from texts to support their opinions or arguments.
- Students demonstrate a command of Standard English grammar when speaking.

**WRITING**
Writing occurs as the result of what students read and discuss.

- Students respond to the texts they read through writing.
- Students write and use evidence from multiple texts or sources to inform, explain, or make an argument.
- Students compose narratives detailing real or imagined experiences.
- Students choose topics and compose writing pieces that are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Students demonstrate a command of Standard English grammar when writing in context.

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The Cobb County Teaching and Learning Standards in English Language Arts provide a rigorous set of required proficiencies in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language. In balanced literacy instruction, reading, speaking, and writing are connected.

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