

# K-12 BALANCED LITERACY INSTRUCTION

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.

## 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.

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.

## READING FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS