Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for Language Clarifications

Maryland College and Career Ready (MCCR) Standards for Language Clarifications – Standard 4

The English Language Arts Department at MSDE facilitated teams of educators from across the state to participate in writing Clarifications for the MCCR Standards at grades Pre-K through twelve. These serve as resources to educators across this state and others as we implement these Standards. Educators from the local systems worked together to create clarification statements that make up a coherent document that reflects the instructional shifts necessary to achieve the MCCR Standards. The Clarification statements detail for educators the skills necessary for students to demonstrate proficiency in each grade level standard in Reading Literature, Reading Informational Text, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. These Clarifications are an integral part of the MCCR Standards toolkit.

L4 ANCHOR STANDARD: DETERMINE OR CLARIFY THE MEANING OF UNKNOWN AND MULTIPLE-MEANING WORDS AND PHRASES BY USING CONTEXT CLUES, ANALYZING MEANINGFUL WORD PARTS, AND CONSULTING GENERAL AND SPECIALIZED REFERENCE MATERIALS, AS APPROPRIATE.

Prekindergarten - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases based on prekindergarten reading and content.

To show proficiency of the skills in this standard, pre-kindergarten students will use picture clues to determine the meaning of unknown words.

Kindergarten - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on kindergarten reading and content.

To show proficiency of the skills in this standard, kindergarten students will identify new meanings for familiar words and apply them accurately (e.g., Students will know that a duck is a bird and learning the verb to duck).

Students will use the most frequently occurring inflections and affixes (e.g., -ed, -s, re-, un-, pre- , -ful, -less) as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word. For example, adding an 's' to the word cat makes the word cats which means more than one cat, adding 'un' to happy makes unhappy which means not happy.

Grade One - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 1 reading and content, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.

To show proficiency of the skills in this standard, first grade students will use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. The students will be able to infer the meaning of unknown words using other words. For example, 'The drowsy boy fell asleep.' The students would be able to determine that the word 'drowsy' means that the boy is tired based on the fact that he fell asleep.

Students will use frequently occurring affixes (e.g., re, un, pre, -ful) as a clue to the meaning of a word. For example, students will understand that 're' means again. They will use this knowledge to determine that the word rewrite means to write again.

Students will identify frequently occurring root words (e.g., look) and their inflectional forms (e.g., looks, looked, looking). Students will be able to identify root words and then be able to determine the meaning of the word with the inflected ending on the root word. For example, when given the word 'walked' students will identify the root word 'walk' and then will know that the word 'walked' means to have done it in the past.

Grade Two - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 2 reading and content, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.

To show proficiency of the skills in this standard, second grade students will use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. The students will be able to infer the meaning of unknown words using other words. For example, 'The drowsy boy fell asleep.' The students would be able to determine that the word 'drowsy' means that the boy is tired based on the fact that he fell asleep.

Students will determine the meaning of the new word formed when a known prefix is added to a known word (e.g., happy/unhappy, tell/retell).

Students will use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., addition, additional).

Students will use knowledge of the meaning of individual words to predict the meaning of compound words (e.g., birdhouse, lighthouse, housefly, bookshelf, notebook, bookmark). The teacher must provide opportunities for students to make and break words to determine the meaning of compound words. Also, students must recognize that you cannot always predict the meaning of compound words (e.g. butterfly)

Students will use glossaries and beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases. The teacher must provide opportunities for students to use technology to clarify the meaning of words and phrases.

Grade Three - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

To show proficiency of the skills in this standard, a third-grade student will find and use key words in the surrounding sentences in order to determine the meaning of an unknown word.

A third-grade student will use their knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and Latin roots and their knowledge of the base word in order to determine the meaning of the newly formed word. A base word is a word part that can stand on its own. For example, heat can stand alone, so in the word preheat, heat is the base word and pre is the suffix.

A third-grade student will also apply their knowledge of root words to determine the meaning of an unknown word with the same root. A root word is part of a word that carries meaning but cannot stand alone. For example, in companion, students can apply their knowledge of company even though only compan appears in the word and cannot stand alone.

A third grader must be able to make use of print and online reference materials in order to deepen their understanding of key words and phrases in a text.

Grade Four - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

To show proficiency of the skills in this standard, a fourth-grade student is able to use definitions and examples imbedded in the text to determine the meaning of an unknown word. The meaning of an unknown word may also be determined by a restatement or synonym used in the same sentence or surrounding sentences.

A fourth-grade student is able to use their knowledge of Greek and Latin roots in order to determine the meaning of the newly formed word. For example, the root civ means citizen. The words civic, civil, civilian, and civilization are all related to the word citizen.

A fourth-grade student is able to make use of print and online reference materials in order to deepen their understanding of key words and phrases in a text.

Grade Five - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

To show proficiency of the skills in this standard, a fifth-grade student is able to distinguish between similarities and differences with words. Students will be able to use definitions and examples imbedded in the text to determine the meaning of an unknown word. The meaning of an unknown word may also be determined by a restatement or synonym used in the same sentence or surrounding sentences.

A fifth-grade student is able to use their knowledge of Greek and Latin roots in order to determine the meaning of the newly formed word. For example, the root cardi means heart. The words cardiac, cardiogram, cardiologist, and cardiology are all related to the word cardi.

A fifth-grade student is able to make use of print and online reference materials in order to deepen their understanding of key words and phrases in a text.

Grade Six - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

To show proficiency of the skills in this standard, a sixth-grade student is able to use the words around an unknown word to determine meaning. A student will also be able to break a word into basic word parts (e.g., prefix, base, and suffix) in order to determine meaning. A student will be able to independently use appropriate resources to determine word meaning and pronunciation. Finally, a student will be able to synthesis knowledge of meaning in context, word parts, and information generated from specialized resources in order to confirm word meaning.

Grade Seven - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

To show proficiency of the skills in this standard, a seventh-grade student is able to use the words around an unknown word to determine meaning. A student will also be able to break a word into basic word parts (e.g., prefix, base, and suffix) in order to determine meaning. A student will be able to independently use appropriate resources to determine word meaning and pronunciation. Finally, a student will be able to synthesis knowledge of meaning in context, word parts, and information generated from specialized resources in order to confirm word meaning.

Grade Eight - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

To show proficiency of the skills in this standard, an eighth-grade student is able to use words around an unknown word to determine meaning. A student is also able to break a word into basic word parts (e.g., prefix, base, and suffix) in order to determine meaning. A student is able to independently use appropriate resources to determine word meaning and pronunciation. Finally, a student is able to synthesis knowledge of meaning in context, word parts, and information generated from specialized resources in order to confirm the meaning of the word or phrase.

Grades Nine and Ten - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9-10 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

To show proficiency of the skills in this standard, a student is able use the words around an unknown word to determine meaning. A student is able differentiate between parts of speech and word meaning based on patterns of word changes. A student is able to independently use appropriate resources to determine word meaning and pronunciation. Finally, a student can synthesis knowledge of meaning in context, word patterns, and information generated from the specialized resources in order to confirm word meaning.

Grades Eleven and Twelve - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 11-12 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

For college and career readiness, a student demonstrates proficiency of the skills in this standard by using the words around an unknown word or phrase to determine meaning. A student can also differentiate between parts of speech and word meaning based on patterns of word changes. In addition, a student can use appropriate resources to determine word meaning and pronunciation. Finally, a student is able to synthesis knowledge of meaning in context, word patterns, and information generated from the specialized resources in order to confirm meaning of a word or phrase.