

Introduction

Background

A series of Manitoba English language arts framework of outcomes and standards documents, produced by Manitoba Education and Training in collaboration with development teams composed of Manitoba educators, begins with three publications:

- *Kindergarten to Grade 4 English Language Arts: Manitoba Curriculum Framework of Outcomes and Grade 3 Standards*
- *Grades 5 to 8 English Language Arts: Manitoba Curriculum Framework of Outcomes and Grade 6 Standards*
- *Senior 1 English Language Arts: Manitoba Curriculum Framework of Outcomes and Senior 1 Standards*

The foundation for these documents is *The Common Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts, Kindergarten to Grade 12 (Grades 10 to 12 Draft)* (1996). Educators from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon Territory collaborated to develop this interjurisdictional project initiated under the Western Canadian Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education. When the Grades 10 to 12 draft outcomes are finalized by the Western Consortium for English language arts, Manitoba Education and Training will develop provincial outcomes for Senior 2 to 4 and standards for Senior 4.

The Manitoba English language arts framework of outcomes and standards documents (hereafter referred to as the ELA Framework) are mandated for use in all schools (*The Action Plan*, 1995). Ongoing review and revision of Manitoba English language arts outcomes and standards will occur as part of *Renewing Education: New Directions* initiatives.

Purpose

The ELA Framework identifies outcomes and standards of performance for Manitoba students in English language arts. It describes general and specific student learning outcomes by grade from Kindergarten to Senior 1 (Senior 2 to 4 draft). These outcomes integrate the four foundation skill areas of literacy and communication, problem solving, human relations, and technology (*A Foundation for Excellence*, 1995). The ELA Framework also describes standards of performance for students at the end of Grade 3, Grade 6, and Senior 1. It provides the basis for teaching, learning, and assessing in English language arts.

General student learning outcomes identify the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that students are expected to learn in English language arts. Specific student learning outcomes identify the component knowledge, skills, and attitudes that contribute to the general learning outcomes (*A Foundation for Excellence*, 1995).

The general and specific outcomes assist educators as they

- plan learning activities that support the achievement of learning outcomes
- set goals for learning
- monitor the progress of individual students
- communicate with parents and guardians about student progress
- develop a literacy plan for a school

Standards are based on combinations of specific learning outcomes. They describe the expected levels of student performance in relation to outcomes at the end of Grade 3, Grade 6, and Senior 1 (*A Foundation for Excellence*, 1995).

The ELA Framework also provides the foundation for English language arts curriculum framework implementation documents, teacher support documents, and development in areas such as student assessment, staff development, and learning resources.

Contents of the ELA Framework

The ELA Framework contains the following sections:

- **Introduction:** The introduction describes the background, purpose, and contents of the ELA Framework.
- **Overview:** The overview describes the principles, beliefs, aims, and conceptual framework for the development of English language arts. It provides the rationale for the ELA Framework.
- **Student Learning Outcomes:** This section presents general and specific student learning outcomes that describe the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that students are expected to demonstrate with increasing competence and confidence in English language arts by the end of each grade.
- **Standards of Student Performance:** This section describes standards for assessing student performance in relation to combinations of general and specific student learning outcomes at the conclusion of Grade 3, Grade 6, and Senior 1.
- **Appendices:** The appendices provide additional information to assist teachers in using the ELA Framework.
- **References:** The references indicate the breadth and depth of print resources used in creating the ELA Framework.