

## Did You Know?

### Focus on Effective Instruction & Assessment (PDE)

PDE has posted information and resources to assist LEAs in planning and to ensure that every student has access to the resources and supports necessary to successfully engage with and master grade-level content. Follow this link for more information: [Focus on Effective Instruction & Assessment](#).

#### GRADE 4 FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION (2020-2021)

This guidance document is designed to identify areas of focus in ELA instruction, supported by key PA Academic Standards. While all standards deserve a defined level of instruction, neglecting key concepts may result in learning gaps in student skills and understanding and may leave students unprepared for the challenges of a later grade. **Note: Refer to complete standard where applicable.**

##### Focus of Instruction: Reading

- Learning new words, facts, and ideas from reading, as well as interpreting and summarizing texts.
- Reading and discussing a variety of texts from multiple genres.
- Shifting gradually to deeper comprehension, combining literacy skills and content knowledge.
- Engaging in word study instruction and fluency practice as needed.
- Interacting with text through close reading, analysis, and interpretation.

CC.1.1.4.D Know and apply grade-level mechanics and word analysis skills in decoding words...  
CC.1.1.4.E Read with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension...  
CC.1.2.4.A / CC.1.2.4.B Delineate the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text. / Delineate a theme of a text from details in the text; summarize the text.  
CC.1.2.4.B Refer to details and examples...to support what the text says explicitly and make inferences...  
CC.1.4.C / CC.1.4.D Explain events, procedures, ideas...including what happened and why, based on specific information... / Describe in depth a character, setting, or event...drawing on specific details...  
CC.2.4.D / CC.1.3.4.D Compare and contrast an event or topic told from two different points of view.

## PA Core Standards Series

The [PA Core Standards](#) were adopted March 1, 2014 by the PA State Board of Education. The standards give us the *what*, but we must understand the *why* and provide the *how*. Although the standards are not a curriculum or a prescribed series of activities, school entities use them to develop local school curriculum to meet students' needs. The PA Core Standards should be at the forefront of every lesson. Read and respond to the following questions:

- Do our written curriculum documents reference the PA Core Standards?
- Do our lesson plans list the PA Core Standards relevant to that specific lesson?
- When we discuss standards, do we use the PA Core Standard language and coding?

Over the course of the next few months, join us in the [ELA CAI Community](#) as we continue the discussion around the standards. It is time to take a fresh look at the PA Core Standards!

## Professional Development

### [Strategies for Promoting Student Collaboration in a Distance Learning Environment](#)

By Larry Ferlazzo

This post is the latest in a collection of over 60 columns, videos, and infographics providing support to teachers doing distance learning. You can see all of the posts at [School Closures & the Coronavirus Crisis](#).

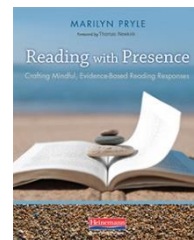
...Collaborative learning is at the core of a successful distance learning environment. Below are suggestions to enhance collaboration. Read the entire post for details!

- Empower students to create their own norms.
- Emphasize student-to-student discussion that connects the individual to the learning.
- Use rituals emphasizing active listening, house talk, and affirmations to boost student investment.
- Provide a variety of engagement over large-group discussion to enrich learning.
- Consider how routine practices may be punitive.
- Read the room.

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"As teachers, our business is in helping students express, refine, and deepen their own thinking... We must start with whatever they bring us in their minds."



### [Reading with Presence](#)

by Marilyn Pryle  
2019 PA Teacher of the Year Recipient



### [I Let My Students Read Silently for the First 10 Minutes of Class, and Here's What Happened](#)

Helpful Links...

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Guidance and Resources for School Communities](#)

General Education Resources

[PDE ELA](#)

[SAS ELA](#)



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