

Glossary of Terms

Accuracy: Reading words correctly.

Assessment: Any teacher-administered task that provides information to the teacher about what a student knows or can do. Assessments may or may not be scored, depending on their purpose. Assessments that are not scored are typically used to inform a teacher's future instruction.

Automaticity: Reading words accurately, quickly, and with little effort.

Content: Writing with explanations through examples, reasons, or opinions.

Conventions: Writing with correct punctuation, mechanics, capitalization, and complete sentences.

Decoding: The process of blending letter sounds to read a word.

Encoding: The process of blending letter sounds to spell a word.

Expression: Reading with appropriate tone, natural phrasing, and attention to punctuation.

Evidence: Anything a teacher can use as an indicator of what a student knows or can do. This may include direct teacher observation, examination of student work, discussions, projects, performance tasks, quizzes and tests, etc.

Fiction Story Elements: The parts that make up a fiction story. These include: character, setting, problem/resolution, climax, rising action, falling action and theme.

Figurative Language: Language that is intended to create an image, association, or other effect in the mind of the listener or reader that goes beyond the literal meaning or expected use of the words involved. Examples of figurative language include: simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia, alliteration, personification, allusion.

Focus: Writing on topic with clear ideas.

Multisyllabic Words: Words with many syllables.

Onset: The "onset" is the initial phonological unit of any word (e.g. c in cat).

Open-Ended Questions: Questions that require students to provide written evidence from the text.

Organization: Writing with a good beginning, middle with details, definite ending, and with everything explained in order.

Phonemes: The smallest units comprising spoken language. Phonemes combine to form syllables and words. For example, the word 'mat' has three phonemes: /m/ /a/ /t/. There are 44 phonemes in the English language, including sounds represented by letter combinations such as /th/.

Phonics: a method of teaching people to read by correlating sounds with letters or groups of letters in an alphabetic writing system.

Phonological Awareness: The ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words.

Progress: Continuous learning and forward movement towards meeting the standard at specific times throughout the year and at the end of each grade level.

Reading Fluency: Reading quickly and accurately with comprehension and appropriate expression.

Rime: The string of letters that follow the initial phonological unit of a word, usually a vowel and final consonants (e.g. at in cat).

Rubric: A rubric is a set of criteria for student work that describes the quality of work at each level of performance. Rubrics are strong instructional tools that aide teachers in evaluating student work and have been used in schools for many years.

Six Syllable Types: These syllable types are used in the English language in order to read and spell correctly:

- Closed: like in the word "mat".
- Open: like in the word "go".
- Consonant I-e: like in the word "mantle".
- Vowel Team: like in the work "plain".
- Vowel-Consonant-Silent E: like in the word "cave".
- R-Controlled: like in the word "car".
- *Schwa Sound: like in the word "basket". *Can appear in any syllable type.

Skill: Individual building blocks that students need to master in order to show proficiency towards specific learning targets.

Standard: Grade level learning goals that define what students should know and be able to do by the end of the school year. These learning goals increase in complexity as students move from one grade level to another.

Style: Writing with colorful language, exact words, and a variety of sentences.

Word Analysis: In word analysis, students break words down into morphemes, their smallest units of meaning. Each morpheme has a meaning that contributes to the whole word. Students' knowledge of morphemes helps them to identify the meaning of words and builds their vocabulary.