

# Mercer County Schools



**PRIORITIZED  
CURRICULUM**

Reading/Language Arts  
Content Maps  
Grade 8

# Mercer County Schools



## PRIORITIZED CURRICULUM

The Mercer County Schools *Prioritized Curriculum* is composed of West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives that have been identified as "Essential, Important, and Nice to Know." The Essential and Important objectives, which are aligned to the WESTEST, must be learned by the student in order to ensure his/her success. Therefore, the majority of instructional time (90% - 95%) must be devoted to the mastery of these objectives. To assist you with your instructional planning, the *Prioritized Curriculum* is divided into learning units (Content Maps) creating an instructional sequence and estimated time for delivering the intended/learned curriculum.

# C O N C E P T   M A P

## **English 8**

Suggested Sequence:

1. Comprehension Strategies/Skills
2. Language Mechanics
3. Literary Analysis
4. Literary Techniques
5. Sentence Structure and Development
6. Writing Skills
7. The Writing Process
8. Vocabulary Enrichment

**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCEPT MAP**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**

**Key Concepts:**

**Fact / Opinion**

**Compare / Contrast**

**Main Idea**

**Supporting Details**

**Author's Purpose**

Estimated days to complete - 25

**Topic:**  
**Comprehension Strategies/Skills**  
CSO's: 8.1.1; 8.1.2; 8.3.3; 8.1.3; 8.1.6; 8.1.7; 8.1.8;  
8.1.10; 8.1.11; 8.1.12

**Enduring Understanding:**

Effective readers use specific strategies to help them better understand what they read.

**Essential Question(s):**

What strategies/skills can I use to make sense of what I read?

**Examples:**

**Captions and  
Re-Reading**

**Double Entry Journals**

**Graphic Organizers**

**Exit Slip /  
Ticket Out the Door**

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Point of View**

**Theme**

**Similarities/Differences**

**Personal Insight**

**Inform**

**Persuade**

**Entertain**

**Chronological Order**

**Inverted Pyramid**

**Paraphrase**

**Conclusion**

**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCEPT MAP**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**

25 Days

**Key Concepts:**

Sequencing

Summarizing

Cause / Effect

Inferences

Context Clues

Topic:  
Comprehension Strategies/Skills  
Page Two

Enduring Understanding:

Essential Question(s):

Examples:

[Empty box for example]

[Empty box for example]

[Empty box for example]

[Empty box for example]

**Key Vocabulary:**

Connections

Foreshadowing

Predicting

Decoding

Encoding

Skimming

Scanning

SQ3R

Hypothesize

Critique

Analyze

Make Judgments

**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCEPT MAP**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**

**Key Concepts:**

Estimated days to complete - 20

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Capitalization**

**Topic:**  
**Language Mechanics & Punctuation,**  
CSO's: 8.2.3; 8.2.5; 8.2.6; 8.2.7; 8.2.9

**Proper Nouns**

**Punctuation**

**Proper Adjectives**

**Quotes**

**Spelling**

**Geographical References**

**Colon / Semicolon**

**Parts of Speech**

**Enduring Understanding:**

Punctuation marks and grammar rules are like highway signs and traffic signals – they help the writer avoid confusion.

**Comma**

**Essential Question(s):**

How can using punctuation and grammar rules make me a better writer/communicator?

**End Marks**

**Question Mark**

**Exclamation Point**

**Examples:**

**Word Wall**

**Editing and Revising**

**Period**

**Dash / Hyphen**

**Games (Bingo, etc.)**

**Journals**

**Apostrophe**

**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCEPT MAP**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**

**Key Concepts:**

**Topic:**  
**Language Mechanics & Punctuation**  
**Page Two**

**Enduring Understanding:**

**Essential Question(s):**

**Examples:**

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Quotation Marks**

**Parentheses**

**Italics**

**Prefix**

**Suffix**

**Root Word**

**Noun/Pronoun**

**Verb/Adverb**

**Adjective**

**Conjunction**

**Preposition**

**Interjection**

**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCEPT MAP**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**

**Key Concepts:**

Estimated days to complete - 20

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Characterization**

**Topic:**

**Literary Analysis**

CSO's: 8.1.1; 8.1.2; 8.1.3; 8.1.4; 8.3.3; 8.1.5; 8.1.6;  
8.1.8; 8.1.10; 8.1.11; 8.1.12

**Point of View**

**Literary Elements**

**Setting**

**Plot/Rising & Falling  
Actions**

**Theme**

**Enduring Understanding:**

Understanding a text's structure helps one understand its meaning.

**Conflict / Internal/External**

**Climax / Resolution**

**Genre**

**Essential Question(s):**

What tools do I need to understand different types of texts?

**Exposition**

**Mood**

**Author's Voice**

**Figurative Language**

**Examples:**

**Character Maps**

**Graphics/Illustrations**

**Foreshadowing**

**Shock of Recognition**

**Moral / Mores (Global)**

**Cubing**

**Journals**

**Fiction**



**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCEPT MAP**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**

**Key Concepts:**

Estimated days to complete - 20

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Author's Purpose**

**Topic:**  
**Literary Analysis**  
**Page Two**

**Non-Fiction**

**Poetry / Prose**

**Myths / Fables**

**Onomatopoeia**

**Alliteration**

**Simile / Metaphor**

**Personification**

**Pun**

**Analyze**

**Rhyme**

**Rhythm**

**Enduring Understanding:**

**Essential Question(s):**

**Examples:**

**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCEPT MAP**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**

**Key Concepts:**

**Persuasive Language**

**Irony**

**Analogies**

**Estimated days to complete-15**

**Topic:**

**Literary Techniques**

CSO's: 8.1.1; 8.1.2; 8.1.3; 8.1.4; 8.3.3; 8.3.5; 8.1.6;  
8.1.7; 8.1.8; 8.1.10; 8.1.11; 8.1.12

**Enduring Understanding:**

Writers sometimes convey ideas indirectly.

**Essential Question(s):**

How can I “read between the lines”?

**Examples:**

**Graphic Organizers**

**Cooperative Learning  
Groups**

**Role-Playing  
Dramatization**

**Write Composition  
Related to Personal  
Experience**

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Fact / Opinion**

**Cause / Effect**

**Compare / Contrast**

**Interpretation**

**Satire**

**Author’s Voice**

**Understatement**

**Repetition**

**Verbal Irony**

**Situational Irony**

**Dramatic Irony**

**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCEPT MAP**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**

**Key Concepts:**

**Speaking Skills**

**Listening Skills**

**Graphic Aids**

**Body Language**

**Estimated days to complete - 5**

**Topic:**  
**Oral Communication Skills**  
**(Listening, Speaking, And Viewing)**  
CSO's: 8.3.1; 8.3.2; 8.3.4; 8.3.5; 8.1.10;  
8.1.11; 8.1.12

**Enduring Understanding:**

Preparation and presentation affect the understanding and appreciation of an oral address to a class audience.

**Essential Question(s):**

Why/How is preparation important for holding the audience's attention during a presentation?

**Examples:**

**Impromptu Speech**

**Compare/Contrast in  
Small Groups**

**Prepared Speech**

**Video Selections**

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Tone / Volume**

**Rate**

**Speaking Etiquette**

**Audience Etiquette**

**Table / Graph**

**Diagram**

**Chart**

**Posture**

**Eye Contact**

**Animation**

**Voice Projection**

**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCEPT MAP**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**

**Key Concepts:**

Estimated days to complete - 20

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Types of Sentences**

**Topic:**  
**Sentence Structure & Development**  
**CSO's: 8.1.10; 8.1.11; 8.3.5; 8.2.3; 8.2.6; 8.2.7; 8.2.9;**  
**8.2.11**

**Simple / Compound**

**Complete/Incomplete Sentences**

**Complex**

**Fragment**

**Parallel Structure**

**Enduring Understanding:**

Understanding sentence structure enables a writer to convey meaning more clearly.

**Run-On**

**Phrase**

**Clause**

**Effective Sentences**

**Essential Question(s):**

How can I write sentences that make a clear picture for the reader?

**Faulty**

**Balanced**

**Redundant**

**Examples:**

**Student Writing Examples**

**Bell Ringer Activities**

**Misplaced Modifiers**

**Dangling Modifiers**

**Cooperative Learning Activities**

**Revising/Re-Writing**

**Appositive**

**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCEPT MAP**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**

**Key Concepts:**

**Paragraph Organization**

**Effective Expression  
(Content)**

**Usage**

**Types of Writing**

**Reference  
Sources**

**Estimated days to complete - 20**

**Topic:**  
**Writing Skills**  
CSO's: 8.1.10; 8.1.11; 8.2.1; 8.2.2; 8.2.3; 8.2.7; 8.2.8;  
8.2.9; 8.2.13; 8.2.15; 8.3.5

**Enduring Understanding:**

Effective writers use specific techniques and skills.

**Essential Question(s):**

What devices do I use for different forms of writing?  
How do I apply the characteristics of good writing?

**Examples:**

**Modeling Devices**

**Peer Tutoring**

**Practice –  
Write! Write!  
Write!**

**Outlining/Webbing**

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Topic Sentence**

**Indent**

**Supporting Details**

**Conclusion**

**Transitional Devices**

**Relevant Details**

**Precise Word Choice**

**Vivid Diction**

**Subject-Verb Agreement**

**Pronoun Usage**

**Creative**

**Informative/Expository**

**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCEPT MAP**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**

**Key Concepts:**

Topic:  
Writing Skills  
Page Two

**Enduring Understanding:**

**Essential Question(s):**

**Examples:**

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Persuasive**

**Chronological**

**Compare / Contrast**

**Cause / Effect**

**Article / Essay**

**Journal / Letter**

**Report**

**Poetry**

**Parallelism**

**Sentence Variety**

**Voice**

**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCEPT MAP**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**

**Key Concepts:**

**Pre-Writing**

**Draft**

**Revision**

**Final Draft**

**Publication**

Estimated days to complete - 10

**Topic:**  
**The Writing Process**  
CSO's: 8.1.10; 8.1.11; 8.3.5; 8.2.1; 8.2.2; 8.2.3; 8.2.4;  
8.2.5; 8.2.6; 8.2.7; 8.2.8; 8.2.9; 8.2.15

**Enduring Understanding:**

A good writer uses the writing process to develop a focused composition.

**Essential Question(s):**

What steps do I take to express my thoughts and ideas effectively?

**Examples:**

**Guided Practice with  
Visual Aids**

**Graphic Organizers  
Outlines**

**Modeling**

**Peer Review and Editing**

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Brainstorm**

**Clustering / Outlining**

**Mapping / Webbing**

**Introduction/Body/  
Conclusion**

**Organize/ Sequential Order**

**Transitional Words**

**Supporting Details**

**Vivid/Precise Language**

**Coherence**

**Illustrations**

**Thesis Statement**

**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS CONCEPT MAP**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**

**Key Concepts:**

**Word Meaning**

**Generating New Words**

**Multiple Meanings**

**Word Origins**

**Compound Words**

**Estimated days to complete - 5**

**Topic:**  
**Vocabulary Enrichment**  
CSO's: 8.1.10; 8.1.11

**Enduring Understanding:**

English is a melting pot of languages – a complex, borrowed composite.

**Essential Question(s):**

How are new words added to a language?

**Examples:**

**Greek & Latin  
Prefixes/Internet  
Activity**

**Word Games**

**Word Wall**

**Multicultural Food and  
Dress Fair**

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Root Word**

**Affix**

**Prefix**

**Suffix**

**Glossary**

**Thesaurus**

**Dictionary**

**Reference**

**Etymology**

**Derivative**