

Missouri Handwriting Standards

(As per: <http://dese.mo.gov/>)

Updated 2009

Kindergarten

* Demonstrate basic concepts of print:

- a. directionality left to right, return sweep, top and bottom
- b. understanding that the story is in the print
- c. word by word matching
- d. distinction between letter and word

* In written text

- a. form letters using correct pathway of movement (letter formation)
- b. capitalize first letters of own first and last name
- c. use ending punctuation in written text, with assistance
- d. use correct spelling of own first and last names, semi-phonetic spelling, spelling strategies
- e. write legibly

Grade One

* Demonstrate concepts of print:

- a. upper- and lower-case letters
- b. first and last letters in words
- c. directionality in letter and word order
- d. punctuation has meaning

* In written text

- a. print all letters legibly, using correct pathway of movement, and appropriate spacing between letters and words
- b. capitalize names of people and beginning words of sentences
- c. use a period at end of sentence and a comma in the greeting and closing of a letter with assistance
- d. use naming words (nouns) and action words (verbs) correctly
- e. spell words with simple patterns and high frequency words correctly
- f. use phonetic spelling, classroom resources to verify correct spelling, and spelling strategies
- g. write legibly

Grade Two

* In written text

- a. space correctly between letters and words
- b. capitalize days of week, names of towns, cities, states
- c. use correct ending punctuation in declarative and interrogative sentences, comma in dates, and comma in the greeting and closing of a letter
- d. correctly use describing words (adjectives) and substitute pronouns for nouns
- e. spell words with simple patterns and high-frequency words correctly
- f. use transitional spelling, classroom resources, especially dictionary, and spelling strategies
- g. write legibly

Grade Three

In written text

- a. space correctly between words in a sentence and in margins

- b. capitalize months of year, titles of individuals, greeting and closing of letter
- c. use correct ending punctuation in imperative and exclamatory sentences
- d. correctly use verbs that agree with the subject, and comparative and superlative forms of adverbs and adjectives
- e. correctly spell simple compounds, homophones, contractions and words with affixes
- f. use standard spelling and classroom resources, including dictionary, to edit for correct spelling
- *g. write legibly

Grade Four

In written text

- a. capitalize holidays, names of counties and countries
- b. use commas in a series, and between city and state
- c. use apostrophe in contractions and singular possessives, with assistance
- d. correctly use verbs that agree with compound subject, and conjunctions
- e. use standard spelling and classroom resources, including dictionary, to edit for correct spelling
- *f. write legibly

Grade Five

In written text

- a. capitalize titles and proper nouns
- b. use comma in compound sentences
- c. use apostrophe in singular possessives, and proper punctuation in titles with assistance
- d. use correct verb tense and subject/verb agreement
- e. use correct spelling of simple compounds, homophones, contractions and words with affixes
- f. use standard spelling, classroom resources, including dictionary, to edit for correct spelling
- *g. write legibly