

Cursive Writing Requirements in SREB States

State	Requirement	Grade-Level Requirements in Statute or Standards	Assessment	Notes*
Alabama	In statute §16-6B-2, Code of Alabama 1975 (Act 2016-352)	Students will create readable documents through legible cursive handwriting by the end of third grade.	Local school boards must certify annually that schools are meeting the requirements of the law.	<p>§16-6B-2, Code of Alabama, created in 1995, requires handwriting. Act 2016-352 added specific reference to cursive writing.</p> <p>The 2016 Revised Alabama Course of Study for English Language Arts specifies the minimum required curriculum content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade two: Form uppercase and lowercase letters in cursive. • Grade three: Write legibly in cursive.
Arkansas	In statute §6-16-146, Arkansas Code (Act 160, 2015)	Beginning in the 2015-16 year, every public elementary school shall teach cursive writing as a component of English language arts by the end of grade three.	Not part of state assessments; any determination of competency is done at the local level.	<p>2003 curriculum frameworks included cursive.</p> <p>2016 Arkansas Academic Standards specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade two: By the end of grade two, produce some cursive uppercase and lowercase letters. • Grade three: Form all uppercase and lowercase letters to write words legibly in cursive. • Grades four through 12: The handwriting standard is taught in grade three and should be reinforced as needed. Form all uppercase and lowercase letters to write words legibly in cursive.
Delaware	Not required	Currently, teachers may choose to teach cursive, generally in grade two or three.		<p>Standards in Delaware have not included cursive writing.</p> <p>HB 52 (2015) to require cursive did not pass.</p>
Florida	Through state standards	State standards include cursive instruction in grades three through five.	Not part of state assessments; any determination of competency is done at the local level.	<p>Cursive was required in the 2007-2012 Sunshine State Standards but was not included in the 2010 adoption of new English language arts standards. It was added back into the standards in 2014.</p> <p>The Florida Standards specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade three: Demonstrate beginning cursive writing skills. • Grade four: Demonstrate legible cursive writing skills. • Grade five: Demonstrate fluent and legible cursive writing skills.
Georgia	Through state standards	State standards include cursive instruction in grades three and four.	Not part of state assessments; any determination of competency is done at the local level.	<p>Cursive writing was required prior to 2010 and was still required following the adoption of new standards in 2010. It also is included in the 2012 standards that were revised and renamed in 2015, with implementation in 2015-16.</p> <p>Georgia Standards of Excellence specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade three: Students are to write legibly in cursive. • Grade four: Students are to write legibly in cursive, leaving spaces between letters in a word and between words in a sentence.

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Cursive Writing Requirements in SREB States (continued)

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Ketucky	Not required			<p>Cursive has not been required in the past.</p> <p>The state commissioner of education's <i>State of K-12 Education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky</i> report (January 2016) indicates that consideration is being given to adding cursive writing to the Kentucky Academic Standards.</p>
Louisiana	In statute §17:266, Louisiana Revised Statutes (Act 482, 2016)	Each public school shall ensure that cursive instruction is introduced by third grade and incorporated into the curriculum in grades four through 12.		<p>2009 Louisiana Handwriting Standards included cursive in grades three and four. Standards in 2010 did not include cursive.</p> <p>New law requiring that cursive be taught takes effect July 1, 2017.</p>
Maryland	Through the state standards curriculum framework	The state standards curriculum frameworks include cursive instruction in grades two through five.	Not part of state assessments; any determination of competency is done at the local level.	<p>Cursive was included in the 2009 handwriting standards under the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum. While the 2010 standards did not include cursive, the frameworks that identified the essential skills and knowledge to master the standards did include cursive.</p> <p>The Maryland College and Career Ready Standards Curriculum Framework specifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade two: Produce writing that is legible, including the correct formation of cursive letters. • Grades three through five: Prepare final product for presentation and or publication...applying cursive handwriting skills neatly and legibly when handwriting is preferable or technology is unavailable.
Mississippi	Through state standards	State standards include cursive instruction in grades two through eight.	Not part of state assessments; local officials are responsible for teaching students to meet mastery of the standards.	<p>2006 Mississippi Language Arts Framework included cursive in grade three.</p> <p>Several bills to require cursive have failed to pass.</p> <p>Mississippi College-and Career-Readiness Standards for English Language Arts specify: Grades two through eight: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing (printing, cursive or keyboarding) or speaking.</p>

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North Carolina	In state statute §115C-81, North Carolina General Statutes (State Law 2013-71)	The standard course of study shall include the requirement that the public schools provide instruction in cursive writing so that students create readable documents through legible cursive handwriting by the end of fifth grade.	Not part of state assessments; any determination of competency is done at the local level.	<p>2004 standards included cursive writing as did the 2010 Standard Course of Study for English Language Arts. With the adoption of new standards in 2010 that were scheduled to take effect in 2012, cursive was to be phased out. The standards were then amended to add the word “cursive” back into the objectives.</p> <p>The Standard Course of Study for English Language Arts specifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade three: Create readable documents with legible handwriting (manuscript and cursive). • Grade four: Create readable documents through legible handwriting (cursive) and/or word processing. • Grade five: Create readable documents through legible handwriting (cursive) and word processing.
Oklahoma	Through state standards	State standards include cursive instruction in grades three and four.	Not part of state assessments; while district and school leaders confirm (through the accreditation process) adherence to the standards, there is no mechanism to ensure that cursive is being taught effectively or that students are learning it.	<p>The 1997 Priority Academic Skills (PASS) referred to “handwriting” but not specifically to cursive. Cursive was included in a later version of PASS prior to the adoption of new standards in 2010.</p> <p>Oklahoma Academic Standards for English Language Arts specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades three and four: Students will correctly form letters in print and cursive and use appropriate spacing for letters, words and sentences. • Students will continue to review and apply earlier grade-level expectations for this standard. If print concept skills are not mastered, students will address skills from previous grades.
South Carolina	In statute §59-29-15, South Carolina Code of Laws (Act 0275 of 2014)	...each school district shall provide instruction in cursive writing to ensure that students can create readable documents through legible cursive handwriting by the end of fifth grade...	Information not available at this time.	<p>Cursive was included in state standards that preceded the adoption of new standards in 2010. Following adoption of the 2010 standards, districts were permitted to continue teaching it.</p> <p>South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards for English Language Arts specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade two: Begin to develop cursive writing. • Grade three: Connect uppercase and lowercase letters efficiently and proportionately in cursive handwriting. • Grades four and five: Students are expected to build upon and continue applying previous learning. • Grades six through eight: Students are expected to build upon and continue applying previous learning. Connect uppercase and lowercase letters efficiently and proportionately in cursive writing.

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Tennessee	In statute §49-6-1034, Tennessee Code Annotated (Public Chapter 0781 of 2014)	The state board of education shall include cursive writing in the course of instruction in all public schools through the curriculum standards, at the appropriate grade level, as determined by the state board of education.		<p>Cursive was not specifically required prior to the passage of the 2014 bill.</p> <p>New English language arts standards will take effect in 2017-18 and specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade two: Print legibly in manuscript; write many uppercase and lowercase letters in cursive. • Grade three: Write legibly in manuscript; write all lower and uppercase cursive letters. • Grades four and five: Write legibly in manuscript and cursive.
Texas	In state standards	State standards include cursive instruction in grades two and three.	Not part of state assessments; any determination of competency is done at the local level.	<p>The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for English Language Arts, effective in 2008, include cursive writing and currently are under review.</p> <p>The TEKS specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade three: Students are expected to write legibly in cursive script with spacing between words in a sentence. • Grade four: Students are expected to write legibly by selecting cursive script or manuscript printing as appropriate.
Virginia	Through state standards	The state standards curriculum frameworks include cursive instruction in grades two through five.	Not part of state assessments; any determination of competency is done at the local level.	<p>Cursive writing has always been a part of Virginia's Standards of Learning.</p> <p>Virginia's Standards of Learning specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade two: The student will maintain legible printing and begin to make the transition to cursive. • Grade three: The student will write legibly in cursive.
West Virginia	Through state standards	State standards include cursive instruction in grades two through four.	Not part of state assessments; any determination of competency is done at the local level.	<p>Prior to 2010, cursive was not included in the state's standards and objectives.</p> <p>The 2011-16 Next Generation Standards include cursive.</p> <p>The current College- and Career-Readiness Standards specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade two: Create readable documents with legible print or cursive as developmentally appropriate. • Grade three: Begin cursive writing. Write legibly in cursive or joined italics, allowing margins and correct spacing between letters in a word and words in a sentence. • Grade four: Write in cursive. Write fluidly and legibly in cursive or joined italics.

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