# Frequently Asked Questions

**What is *Redbird Language Arts & Writing*?**

Originally developed at Stanford University and grounded in more than 25 years of research in adaptive learning technology, *Redbird Language Arts & Writing* is an all-digital personalized learning program focused on building strong grammar and writing skills. It is designed to supplement instruction and proven to accelerate learning for all students from remedial to advanced.

*Redbird Language Arts & Writing* will:

- Deliver just the right level and amount of instruction and practice to propel learning forward
- Provide immediate error-specific feedback, supporting students sentence-by-sentence
- Identify and close foundational writing gaps, without requiring additional whole class instructional time
- Generate real-time data to help educators make insightful, actionable decisions about every student's progress toward building strong foundational writing skills

**What technology is required to access Redbird LA&W?**

Redbird LA&W can be accessed anywhere at any time if users have a device and an internet connection. Click here for a detailed list of system requirements. For a list of domains to properly access the Redbird Digital Curriculum click here.

**What grade levels does Redbird LA&W cover?**

Redbird LA&W addresses standards in grades 2-7. This means that Redbird LA&W is appropriate for any student working on content that falls within these grade-level bands.

**What is the integrated skill approach within Redbird LA&W?**

Research shows that students often struggle to learn and master English language arts skills when these concepts are taught in isolation. Even in a course focused on improving writing skills, it is important to include instruction and exercises in building reading skills, in order to provide models of good writing.

The Redbird LA&W course presents students with a variety of short reading passages at each grade level, both fiction and non-fiction, at each grade level and provides guidance and practice related to vocabulary, writing style, audience, and purpose. Redbird LA&W's integrated approach allows students to experience the connection between the different language domains as they read passages related to the skills they're learning in grammar and writing.

**What is the error-specific feedback provided by Redbird LA&W?**

Redbird LA&W provides immediate, error-specific feedback on sentence- and paragraph-level compositions so students can continuously revise, improve, and strengthen their foundational writing skills without requiring teachers to grade more. Informed by more than 10 million student-composed sentences and developed and supported by ongoing research at Stanford's Center for the Study of Information and Language, this proprietary technology:

- Can accurately and immediately identify hundreds of common errors in grammar and word choice.
- Brings unparalleled personalization to the study of writing and provides constant, one-to- one support for students.
- Allows students to instantly correct the errors and learn from their mistakes.
  Redbird LA&W is the ONLY product on the market that offers this type of error-specific response feedback.

**How does Redbird LA&W engage its learners?**

There are a variety of features built into Redbird that engage learners. Research shows that one of the most impactful features is immediate responsiveness and adaptivity to personalize the material for the students. They see immediately what they understand and what they haven't learned yet, and they have help, hints, and feedback to support them along the way.

**I sometimes hear the word "parser" in reference to error-specific feedback. What does the word parser mean?**

"Parser" is the technical/academic term for the composition evaluation software that Redbird LA&W utilizes to analyze student writing and provide error-specific feedback.

**Is text-to-speech available for the error-specific feedback (feedback in the red box)?**

In short, no. But why?

What is NOT available: There is not text-to-speech for error-specific feedback (feedback in the red box) because the composer does not provide canned/generic feedback—the feedback in the red box is unique and error-specific based on each unique sentence that the student writes. The text-to-speech engine is limited in this way, it simply cannot process unique text fast enough for text-to-speech to be possible.

What IS available: If a student gets a composition item set incorrect on the second attempt (they are only allowed two chances per item set to prevent student frustration), below the error-specific feedback a sample correct sentence is provided. Audio IS provided for that sample sentence.

**How is vocabulary addressed in the program?**

Redbird LA&W includes content vocabulary (which is appropriate for the grade level of content) exercises within each item set that includes a reading passage.

**What kind of reports does Redbird LA&W produce?**

Class-level, student-level, and district-level reports are currently available including (but not limited to) a unique feature called "Student Replay" that allows students, parents, and teachers to click on an instructional module or item set and view a click-by-click replay of the student's actions. All reports are real-time and accessible online in the click of a button.

We strongly encourage you to retrieve your student data via the Snapshot Report when you conclude use of the program. After your subscription ends, data will be deleted in accordance with our data retention policy. You can find further information about our privacy practices in the [McGraw Hill Privacy Center](#).

**What implementation models are best for Redbird LA&W?**

Redbird LA&W has been used effectively in a wide variety of implementation models. These include variations of Lab Rotations, Station Rotations, Flex, Homework, and more. Redbird Implementation Specialists can consult with you to determine what implementation model would work best for your situation.

**Are seats/licenses lost if students move? How are the seats/licenses managed?**

No, once you remove a student from your class, you may add a new student to replace them.

# References

Suppes, P., Liang, T., Macken, E. E., and D. Flickinger (2014) "Positive technological and negative pre-test-score effects in a four-year assessment of low socioeconomic status K-8 student learning in computer-based Math and Language Arts courses," in *Computers & Education* 71.0, pp. 23–32.