

Office of Assessments, Analytics, and Accountability

ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL DESCRIPTORS — GRADE 8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

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UNDERSTANDING REPORTING INFORMATION

Student performance is reported by overall achievement level and then broken down into subcategories, which are aspects of the major ELA categories of Reading and Writing.

Achievement Level Definitions

Achievement level definitions briefly describe the expectations for student performance at each of Louisiana’s five achievement levels:

- **Advanced:** Students performing at this level have **exceeded** college and career readiness expectations, and are well prepared for the next level of studies in this content area.
- **Mastery:** Students performing at this level have **met** college and career readiness expectations, and are prepared for the next level of studies in this content area.
- **Basic:** Students performing at this level have **nearly met** college and career readiness expectations, and may need additional support to be fully prepared for the next level of studies in this content area.
- **Approaching Basic:** Students performing at this level have **partially met** college and career readiness expectations, and will need much support to be prepared for the next level of studies in this content area.
- **Unsatisfactory:** Students performing at this level have **not yet met** the college and career readiness expectations, and will need extensive support to be prepared for the next level of studies in this content area.

ELA Reporting Categories

Student performance on the LEAP English Language Arts assessments will be reported by category and subcategory as outlined in the following table.

Category	Category /Subcategory Descriptions
Reading Performance	Reading Literary Text: Students read and demonstrate comprehension of grade-level fiction, drama, and poetry.
	Reading Informational Text: Students read and demonstrate comprehension of grade-level nonfiction, including texts about history, science, and the arts.
	Reading Vocabulary: Students use context to determine the meaning of words and phrases in grade-level texts.
Writing Performance	Students use details from provided texts to compose well-developed, organized, clear writing and incorporate the rules of Standard English (grammar, mechanics, and usage).

Achievement Level Descriptors

Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) indicate what a typical student at each level should be able to demonstrate based on his or her command of grade-level standards. ELA ALDs are written for the two assessment categories of Reading and Writing.

The information for the **Reading ALDs** comes from the items that measure the Reading subcategories, which include all selected-response items and the reading points from the prose-constructed response (PCR) items on the Research Simulation Task and the Literary Analysis Task. The PCR at the end of the Narrative Writing Task does not measure reading. Selected-response items ask students to select from a set of given answer options, rather than providing their own responses, and include Evidence-Based Selected-Response (EBSR), Multiple-Select (MS), and Technology-Enhanced (TE) items. For more information about item types, see the [Grades 3-8 ELA Assessment Guide](#).

The information for the **Writing ALDs** comes from the writing performance category, measured by the PCR items which ask students to provide an extended and complete written response to a prompt that acts as the culmination of the writing tasks on the LEAP ELA tests (i.e., Research Simulation Task **OR** Literary Analysis Task **OR** Narrative Writing Task). The rubrics used to score the PCRs can be found in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library. For more information about the PCRs and the scoring rubrics, refer to the [Grades 3-8 ELA Assessment Guide](#).

The tables that follow describe the ALDs for Reading and Writing for grade 8. The underlining within the Reading table identifies a student's level of understanding as it pertains to the different levels of complexity of the passages on the LEAP tests, while the underlining within the Writing table identifies the degree of success a student has with the different writing elements.

Grade 8 Achievement Level Descriptors for Reading

Level 5: Advanced	Level 4: Mastery	Level 3: Basic	Level 2: Approaching Basic
A student who achieves at Level 5 exceeds expectations for the assessed standards.	A student who achieves at Level 4 meets expectations for the assessed standards.	A student who achieves at Level 3 approaches expectations for the assessed standards.	A student who achieves at Level 2 partially meets expectations for the assessed standards.
<p>In Reading, the pattern exhibited by student responses indicates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With <u>very complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to do <u>mostly accurate analyses</u> of the text, showing <u>understanding</u> of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when supporting sound inferences drawn from the text. • With <u>moderately complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to do <u>mostly accurate analyses</u> of the text, showing <u>understanding</u> of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when supporting sound inferences drawn from the text. • With <u>readily accessible text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to do <u>accurate analyses</u> of the text, showing <u>full understanding</u> of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when supporting sound inferences drawn from the text. 	<p>In Reading, the pattern exhibited by student responses indicates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With <u>very complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to do <u>generally accurate analyses</u> of the text, showing <u>general understanding</u> of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when supporting sound inferences drawn from the text. • With <u>moderately complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to do <u>generally accurate analyses</u> of the text, showing <u>general understanding</u> of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when supporting sound inferences drawn from the text. • With <u>readily accessible text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to do <u>mostly accurate analyses</u> of the text, showing <u>understanding</u> of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when supporting sound inferences drawn from the text. 	<p>In Reading, the pattern exhibited by student responses indicates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With <u>very complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to do <u>minimally accurate analyses</u> of the text, showing <u>minimal understanding</u> of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when supporting sound inferences drawn from the text. • With <u>moderately complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to do <u>generally accurate analyses</u> of the text, showing <u>basic understanding</u> of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when supporting sound inferences drawn from the text. • With <u>readily accessible text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to do <u>mostly accurate analyses</u> of the text, showing <u>understanding</u> of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when supporting sound inferences drawn from the text. 	<p>In Reading, the pattern exhibited by student responses indicates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With <u>very complex text</u>, students demonstrate the <u>inability to do an accurate analysis</u> of the text, showing <u>limited understanding</u> of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when supporting sound inferences drawn from the text. • With <u>moderately complex text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to do <u>minimally accurate analyses</u> of the text, showing <u>minimal understanding</u> of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when supporting sound inferences drawn from the text. • With <u>readily accessible text</u>, students demonstrate the ability to do <u>partially accurate analyses</u> of the text, showing <u>partial understanding</u> of the text when referring to explicit details and examples in the text and when supporting sound inferences drawn from the text.

Grade 8 Achievement Level Descriptors for Writing

Level 5: Advanced	Level 4: Mastery	Level 3: Basic	Level 2: Approaching Basic
<p>A student who achieves at Level 5 exceeds expectations for the assessed standards.</p> <p>In Writing, students address the prompts and provide <u>effective development</u> of ideas, including when drawing evidence from multiple sources, while demonstrating <u>effective coherence</u>, clarity, and/or cohesion.</p> <p>The student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides <u>effective</u> development of the claim, topic, and/or narrative elements, using <u>clear</u> reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description. Develops claim, topic, and/or narrative elements in a manner that is <u>appropriate</u> to the task, purpose, and audience. Demonstrates coherence, clarity, and cohesion and includes an introduction, conclusion, and a <u>logical progression</u> of ideas. Establishes and maintains an <u>effective</u> style, while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline. <u>Effectively</u> draws evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. 	<p>A student who achieves at Level 4 meets expectations for the assessed standards.</p> <p>In Writing, students address the prompts and provide <u>development</u> of ideas, including when drawing evidence from multiple sources, while demonstrating coherence, clarity, and/or cohesion.</p> <p>The student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides development of the claim, topic, and/or narrative elements, using reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description. Develops claim, topic, and/or narrative elements in a manner that is <u>mostly appropriate</u> to the task, purpose, and audience. Demonstrates <u>general</u> coherence, clarity, and cohesion and includes an introduction, conclusion, and <u>logically grouped</u> ideas. Establishes and maintains a <u>mostly effective</u> style, while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline. Draws evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. 	<p>A student who achieves at Level 3 approaches expectations for the assessed standards.</p> <p>In Writing, students address the prompts and provide <u>basic development</u> of ideas, including when drawing evidence from multiple sources, while <u>generally</u> demonstrating <u>basic</u> coherence, clarity, and/or cohesion.</p> <p>The student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides <u>some</u> development of the claim, topic, and/or narrative elements, using <u>basic</u> reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description. Develops claim, topic, and/or narrative elements in a manner that is <u>somewhat appropriate</u> to the task, purpose, and audience. Demonstrates <u>some</u> coherence, clarity, and/or cohesion, making the writer’s progression of ideas <u>somewhat unclear</u>. Employs a style that is <u>generally effective</u>, with basic awareness of the norms of the discipline. Draws <u>some</u> evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. Includes <u>some</u> descriptions, sensory details, linking or 	<p>A student who achieves at Level 2 partially meets expectations for the assessed standards.</p> <p>In Writing, students address the prompts and provide <u>minimal development</u> of ideas, including when drawing evidence from multiple sources, while demonstrating <u>minimal</u> coherence, clarity, and/or cohesion.</p> <p>The student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides <u>minimal</u> development of the claim, topic, and/or narrative elements, using <u>minimal</u> reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description. Provides <u>minimal</u> development of the claim, topic, and/or narrative elements that is <u>minimally appropriate</u> to the task, purpose, or audience. Demonstrates <u>minimal</u> coherence, clarity, and/or cohesion, making the writer’s progression of ideas <u>unclear</u>. Employs a <u>minimally effective</u> style, and <u>minimal</u> awareness of the norms of the discipline. Draws <u>minimal</u> evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Grade 8 Achievement Level Descriptors for Writing

Level 5: Advanced	Level 4: Mastery	Level 3: Basic	Level 2: Approaching Basic
A student who achieves at Level 5 exceeds expectations for the assessed standards.	A student who achieves at Level 4 meets expectations for the assessed standards.	A student who achieves at Level 3 approaches expectations for the assessed standards.	A student who achieves at Level 2 partially meets expectations for the assessed standards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses <u>precise</u> language, including descriptive words and phrases, sensory details, linking and transitional words, words to indicate tone, and/or domain-specific vocabulary. • Demonstrates <u>full</u> command of the conventions of Standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There <u>may be some errors</u> in mechanics, grammar, and usage, but overall meaning is clear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses <u>mostly precise</u> language, including descriptive words and phrases, sensory details, linking and transitional words, words to indicate tone, and/or domain-specific vocabulary. • Demonstrates command of the conventions of Standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There are <u>errors</u> in mechanics, grammar, and usage that may <u>occasionally impede</u> understanding. 	<p>transitional words, words to indicate tone, or domain-specific vocabulary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates <u>basic</u> command of the conventions of Standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There are <u>few patterns of errors</u> in mechanics, grammar, and usage that <u>impede</u> understanding, demonstrating <u>partial</u> control over language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes <u>minimal</u> descriptions, sensory details, linking or transitional words, words to indicate tone, or domain-specific vocabulary. • Demonstrates <u>minimal</u> command of the conventions of Standard English. There are <u>patterns of errors</u> in mechanics, grammar, and usage that <u>impede</u> understanding, demonstrating <u>minimal</u> control over language.