

SBA Grade 4 Proficiency Level Descriptors

Reading

Advanced Level

The student

- identifies relationships among words by categorizing (e.g., synonyms, antonyms, homophones, homographs)
- uses text features to obtain information from text
- makes simple inferences and draws conclusions based on information presented in the text and makes accurate restatements of text
- identifies details in text to support main idea
- makes simple judgments on the relevance of steps in a list of directions
- demonstrates understanding of story elements (characters, plots, and setting) within one story or text
- supports opinions with evidence from text

Proficient Level

The student

- uses context clues and structural elements to determine meaning of unfamiliar phrases
- identifies statements in text to support a conclusion
- identifies accurate restatements and summarized information from text
- states main idea of narrative and informational text
- identifies the details involved in the steps in a list of directions and their sequence
- identifies literary elements and devices (i.e., dialogue, rhyme, alliteration, or simile)
- describes all story elements in a variety of stories
- distinguishes between fact and opinion in a text
- identifies author's message or theme
- makes relevant connections to other texts

Below Proficient Level

The student

- uses knowledge of phonics and word structure to decode unfamiliar words
- locates information directly stated in text
- identifies key details from text
- identifies main idea or central concept in various types of text
- identifies sequence of steps in a list of directions
- identifies the use of dialogue or rhyme in common forms of text
- describes some story elements in a variety of stories

Far Below Proficient Level

There is a significant need for additional instructional opportunities to achieve the proficient level.

Writing

Advanced Level

In the area of writing, the fourth grade student performing at the advanced level

- consistently writes for a variety of purposes and audiences developing a paragraph that maintains a focused idea and includes details that support the main idea
- demonstrates mastery of writing an understandable story with well-developed characters, setting, and plot
- writes a variety of nonfiction forms using appropriate information and structure

In the area of proofreading, the fourth grade student performing at the advanced level

- consistently and effectively writes a variety of simple and complex sentences including the conjunctions *and, or, but, or because*
- consistently applies the rules of punctuation and capitalization

In the area of revising writing for clarity, the fourth grade student performing at the advanced level

- consistently and effectively rearranges and/or adds specific details to improve focus and to support main ideas

Proficient Level

In the area of writing, the fourth grade student performing at the proficient level

- usually writes for a variety of purposes and audiences developing a paragraph that maintains a focused idea and includes details that support the main idea
- usually writes an understandable story with developed characters, setting, and plot
- writes in a variety of nonfiction forms using appropriate information and structure

In the area of proofreading, the fourth grade student performing at the proficient level

- usually writes a variety of simple and complex sentences including the conjunctions *and, or, but, or because*
- usually applies rules of punctuation and capitalization

In the area of revising writing for clarity, the fourth grade student performing at the proficient level

- usually rearranges and/or adds specific details to improve focus and support the main idea

Below Proficient Level

In the area of writing, the fourth grade student performing at the below proficient level

- is unsuccessful in writing for a variety of purposes and audiences developing a paragraph that maintains a focused idea and includes details that support the main idea
- shows limited ability to write an understandable story with clear characters, setting, and plot
- shows limited ability to write a variety of nonfiction forms using appropriate information and structure

In the area of proofreading, the fourth grade student performing at the below proficient level

- has difficulty writing a variety of simple and complex sentences including the conjunctions *and, or, but, or because*
- fails to correct errors in punctuation and capitalization

In the area of revising writing for clarity, the fourth grade student performing at the below proficient level

- has difficulty rearranging and/or adding specific details to improve focus and to support the main idea

Far Below Proficient Level

There is a significant need for additional instructional opportunities to achieve the proficient level.

Mathematics

Advanced Level

The student displays a highly developed understanding of

- high-level concepts involving numbers, operational relationships, and complex number theory
- precise measurement techniques
- complicated problems involving money combinations and equivalent measures
- sophisticated estimation strategies
- computation required to solve difficult problems
- multifaceted patterns
- challenging geometric relationships
- perimeter and area of complex shapes
- the representation, uses, and analysis of data in multiple formats
- the description of probability in experiments

Proficient Level

The student demonstrates conceptual understanding of

- numbers, mathematical operations, and number theory involving whole numbers and fractions
- measurable attributes and measurement techniques involving equivalent measures, appropriate units, telling time, money, and measuring with a ruler
- extending patterns
- estimation strategies and computation involving addition, subtraction, and multiplication
- equation solving
- perimeter and area
- geometric relationships of plane and solid figures
- congruence, symmetry, and transformations
- classification, organization, and analysis of data
- simple problems involving probability and possible combinations

Below Proficient Level

The student shows minimal understanding of

- concepts involving numbers, mathematical operations, number theory, basic equivalent measures, and money
- basic estimation skills
- measurement techniques involving length and time with some precision
- solving simple problems involving arithmetic computation
- extending uncomplicated patterns
- simple geometric relationships
- rudimentary problems involving area, perimeter, symmetry, congruency, and transformations
- the display and uses of straightforward sets of data

Far Below Proficient Level

There is a significant need for additional instructional opportunities to achieve the proficient level.

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