

SBA Grade 8 Proficiency Level Descriptors

Reading

Advanced Level

The student

- determines meaning of increasingly complex content-specific vocabulary and precise vocabulary
- identifies complex relationships among words
- connects information within and across increasingly complex texts by making inferences, drawing conclusions, and comparing and contrasting main ideas
- interprets increasingly complex directions to understand and solve problems
- identifies the characteristics and the effect on the reader of fiction and nonfiction
- analyzes, evaluates, and makes predictions about the importance of plot, setting, character, point of view, and theme within and across a variety of texts
- compares/contrasts literary elements and devices within increasingly complex texts

Proficient Level

The student

- uses context to determine meaning of content-specific vocabulary, and words with multiple meanings
- makes inferences and draws conclusions across increasingly complex texts
- compares and contrasts main ideas or concepts between texts
- interprets complex directions to understand and solve problems
- identifies the characteristics and the effect on the reader of fiction and nonfiction
- analyzes, evaluates, and makes predictions about the importance of plot, setting, character, point of view, and theme to the text
- compares and contrasts literary elements and devices using complex text
- identifies author's purpose
- makes connections to author's message or theme

Below Proficient

The student

- uses context clues, knowledge of language structure, and other resources to determine meaning of unfamiliar words, including words from other languages that have been adopted into English
- summarizes main ideas or events and makes simple inferences from text
- identifies the main ideas in various types of texts and locates and selects evidence that supports a statement or idea
- interprets directions to understand and solve problems
- identifies the characteristics of the four major structural genres
- compares and contrasts plots, settings, and characters in a variety of works by a variety of authors

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 eighth grade student performing at the advanced level

- effectively and consistently uses precise language to incorporate a thesis statement that identifies focus into an introductory paragraph
- writes well-developed paragraphs that include strong evidence to support the main idea
- organizes ideas using effective structure and transitions
- connects the conclusion to the introduction
- consistently shows mastery of a variety of nonfiction forms to inform, describe, or persuade

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

- varies beginnings, lengths, and patterns of sentences to improve flow, meaning, and style
- applies rules of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage

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

- consistently revises to improve clarity and progression of ideas, to eliminate irrelevant ideas, and to use appropriate voice for audience

Proficient Level

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

- uses precise language to incorporate a thesis statement that identifies focus into an introductory paragraph
- usually writes well-developed paragraphs that include relevant details to support the main idea
- organizes ideas using appropriate structure and transitions
- writes a concluding paragraph that restates the thesis or summarizes the main point
- uses a variety of nonfiction forms to inform, describe, and persuade

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

- usually varies beginnings, lengths, and patterns of sentences to improve flow, meaning, and style
- usually applies rules of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage

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

- usually revises to improve clarity and progression of ideas, eliminate irrelevant ideas, and use appropriate voice for audience

Below Proficient Level

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

- has difficulty writing a thesis statement for the introductory paragraph
- writes paragraphs that lack focus and relevant details to support the main idea
- shows limited ability to organize ideas using appropriate structure and transitions
- has difficulty writing a concluding paragraph that restates the thesis or summarizes the main point
- attempts to use a variety of nonfiction forms to inform, describe, or persuade

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

- shows limited ability to vary beginnings, lengths, and patterns of sentences to improve flow, meaning, and style
- applies some rules of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage

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

- fails to revise to improve clarity and progression of ideas, to eliminate irrelevant ideas, and to use appropriate voice

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, inverse operations, exponents, operational relationships, and complex number theory
- complicated problems involving equivalent measures
- estimation and computation required to solve difficult problems
- translating between written phrases and intricate algebraic expressions
- multifaceted patterns
- challenging geometric relationships
- volume and surface area of complex shapes
- the representation and uses of data in multiple formats

Proficient Level

The student demonstrates conceptual understanding of

- real numbers, mathematical operations, and number theory
- equivalent measures within systems
- measurement techniques involving scale drawings
- describing, extending, and generalizing patterns and functions
- computation involving the four basic operations, conversion, ratio, and proportion
- modeling and solving equations
- using mathematical symbols to represent a written phrase
- volume and surface area
- circumference and area of a circle
- geometric relationships of plane and solid figures
- graphing on a coordinate plane
- classification, organization, and analysis of data
- probability including problems involving sample spaces

Below Proficient Level

The student shows minimal understanding of

- concepts involving numbers, mathematical operations, number theory, and basic equivalent measures within systems
- solving simple problems involving arithmetic computation and conversion
- extending uncomplicated patterns
- simple geometric relationships
- rudimentary problems involving volume, surface area, and circumference and area of a circle
- 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.