



## **Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) Grade 7**

### **Reading – Grade 7**

#### **Distinguished**

A student performing at the Distinguished performance level for grade 7 Reading consistently reads closely to determine what the text says explicitly and make logical inferences drawn from the text across a variety of literary and informational genres. The student consistently supports the analysis of texts by citing several pieces of textual evidence, paraphrasing or summarizing. The student routinely demonstrates the ability to determine the themes and central ideas of texts and analyze how form, structure, perspective and word choice contribute to the development of ideas. The student consistently determines the meanings of words and phrases in context, including figurative, connotative and technical meanings. The student skillfully compares how two or more authors present key ideas or information about the same topics.

#### **Proficient**

A student performing at the Proficient performance level for grade 7 Reading often reads closely to determine what the text says explicitly and make logical inferences drawn from the text across a variety of literary and informational genres. The student generally supports the analysis of texts by citing more than one piece of textual evidence, paraphrasing or summarizing. The student usually demonstrates the ability to determine the themes and central ideas of texts and analyze how form, structure, perspective and word choice contribute to the development of ideas. The student often determines the meanings of words and phrases in context, including figurative, connotative and technical meanings. The student generally compares how two or more authors present key ideas or information about the same topics.

#### **Apprentice**

A student performing at the Apprentice performance level for grade 7 Reading attempts to read closely to determine what the texts says explicitly and make logical inferences drawn from the text across a variety of literary and informational genres. The student aims to support the analysis of texts by citing at least one piece of textual evidence, paraphrasing, or summarizing; however, the analysis might be vague or contain inaccuracies. The student sometimes demonstrates the ability to determine the themes and central ideas of texts and analyze how form, structure, perspective and word choice contribute to the development of ideas. The student usually determines the meanings of words and phrases in context, including figurative, connotative and technical meanings. The student sometimes demonstrates the ability to compare how two or more authors present key ideas or

information about the same topics.

### **Novice**

A student performing at the Novice performance level for grade 7 Reading demonstrates minimal ability to read closely to determine what the texts say explicitly or make logical inferences drawn from the text across a variety of literary and informational genres. The student may attempt to support an analysis by citing textual evidence, paraphrasing, or summarizing; however, the analysis displays minimal understanding or contains numerous inaccuracies. The student demonstrates minimal ability to determine the themes and central ideas of texts and analyze how form, structure, perspective and word choice contribute to the development of ideas. The student ineffectively attempts to compare how two or more authors present key ideas or information about the same topics.

## **Mathematics – Grade 7**

### **Distinguished**

A student performing at the Distinguished performance level for grade 7 Mathematics consistently makes sense of quantities and their relationships in problem situations. The student routinely demonstrates the ability to flexibly choose among methods and strategies to solve contextual and mathematical problems, understand and explain their approaches and produce accurate answers efficiently. The student effectively interprets mathematical relationships. The student is adept at identifying key features and applying correspondences between multiple representations, such as proportions, rational numbers, expressions and equations, two- and three-dimensional shapes, and data sets.

### **Proficient**

A student performing at the Proficient performance level for grade 7 Mathematics often makes sense of quantities and their relationships in problem situations. The student usually demonstrates the ability to flexibly choose among methods and strategies to solve contextual and mathematical problems, understand and explain their approaches and produce accurate answers efficiently. The student generally interprets mathematical relationships. The student is adept at identifying key features and applying correspondences between multiple representations, such as proportions, rational numbers, expressions and equations, two- and three-dimensional shapes, and data sets.

### **Apprentice**

A student performing at the Apprentice performance level for grade 7 Mathematics attempts to make sense of quantities and their relationships in problem situations. The student sometimes demonstrates the ability to flexibly choose among methods and strategies to solve contextual and mathematical problems, understand and explain their approaches and produce accurate answers efficiently. The student interprets a few mathematical relationships. The student attempts to identify key features and apply correspondences between multiple representations, such as proportions, rational numbers, expressions and equations, two- and three-dimensional shapes, and data sets, but the results indicate a lack of clarity or a lack of consistency.

## **Novice**

A student performing at the Novice performance level for grade 7 Mathematics displays little understanding of how to make sense of quantities and their relationships in problem situations. The student rarely demonstrates the ability to flexibly choose among methods and strategies to solve contextual and mathematical problems, understand and explain their approaches and produce accurate answers efficiently. The student interprets mathematical relationships ineffectively or inaccurately. The student minimally or inappropriately attempts to identify key features and apply correspondences between multiple representations, such as proportions, rational numbers, expressions and equations, two- and three-dimensional shapes, and data sets.

## **Science – Grade 7**

### **Distinguished**

A student performing at the Distinguished performance level for grade 7 science has a comprehensive understanding of the three dimensions of the science and engineering concepts and practices incorporated in the Kentucky Academic Standards for science up through grade 7. The student consistently communicates ideas in a sophisticated and complex manner, using thorough supporting detail and explicit examples. The student reasons and solves problems by using appropriate strategies in an insightful way. Connections between concepts/ideas from different areas of science, when appropriate, are justified and insightful.

The student at the Distinguished performance level will demonstrate knowledge, skills, and abilities related to the Kentucky Academic Standards for grade 7 science such as:

- Can develop detailed models that clearly represent the relationships within systems
- Can consistently use, analyze, and evaluate models, data, evidence and claims in insightful ways
- Can make appropriate predictions using patterns within graphical displays
- Can construct and present arguments supported with relevant evidence and reasoning in a sophisticated manner
- Can critique the arguments and reasoning of others
- Can plan a detailed investigation, identifying the appropriate variables and controls
- Can evaluate competing solution designs that meet the criteria and constraints
- Can explain in detail the relationships and interactions between structure and function
- Can understand and apply knowledge and appropriate terminology in a relevant way

### **Proficient**

A student performing at the Proficient performance level for grade 7 science has a broad understanding of the three dimensions of the science and engineering concepts and practices incorporated in the Kentucky Academic Standards for science up through grade 7. The student usually communicates ideas accurately using clear and appropriate examples, supporting or justifying those ideas with relevant details and evidence. Problem-solving and critical thinking

skills are used effectively. Connections between concepts/ideas from different areas of science, when present, are reasonable and appropriate.

The student at the Proficient performance level will demonstrate knowledge, skills, and abilities related to the Kentucky Academic Standards for grade 7 science, such as:

- Can develop models that represent most of the relationships within systems
- Can effectively use, analyze, and evaluate models, data, evidence and claims
- Can revise a model to reduce limitations, including correcting errors
- Can identify a pattern within graphical displays to indicate relationships that exist within a system
- Can describe systems in terms of their components, roles, and interactions
- Can construct, use, and present arguments supported with relevant evidence
- Can plan an investigation, identifying the variables and controls
- Can define the problem and design a solution that meets the criteria and constraints
- Can identify the relationship and interaction between structure and function

### **Apprentice**

A student performing at the Apprentice performance level for grade 7 science has a basic understanding of the three dimensions of the science and engineering concepts and practices incorporated in the Kentucky Academic Standards for science up through grade 7. The student demonstrates some problem-solving and critical thinking skills, but they are not consistently applied. The student communicates ideas in a basic manner, but explanations, solutions or justifications may be unclear or ineffective.

The student at the Apprentice performance level will demonstrate knowledge, skills, and abilities related to the Kentucky Academic Standards for grade 7 science such as:

- Can develop models that represent limited or basic relationships within systems
- Can attempt to support claims and/or reasoning, demonstrating inconsistencies and ineffectiveness
- Can identify a basic pattern within graphical displays to indicate limited or partial relationships that exist within a system
- Can partially describe systems in terms of their components, roles, and interactions
- Can construct, use, and present arguments, with partial effectiveness, supported with limited evidence
- Can inconsistently identify variables within a defined investigation
- Can understand constraints and criteria with limited factors

### **Novice**

A student performing at the Novice performance level for grade 7 science has a minimal understanding of the three dimensions of the science and engineering concepts and practices incorporated in the Kentucky Academic Standards for science up through grade 7. The student communicates ideas ineffectively or inaccurately, providing little detail and little or no support. Attempts at problem-solving or critical thinking are minimal or inappropriate.

The student at the Novice performance level does not demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities to be classified into the Apprentice performance level.