



PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

Introduction to the DCAS-Alt1 Performance Level Descriptors in Reading

The Reading portion of the Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System – Alt 1 (DCAS-Alt1) is designed to measure how well students meet the grade band level–expectations as delineated in the Delaware Grade Band Expectations for Reading. The Standards articulate the expectations that students will need to meet by the end of the grade band in order to effectively construct, examine, and extend the meaning of language contained in literary and informational texts. The expectations of the Standards increase in complexity and require higher levels of thinking as students progress through the grade bands. The role of the DCAS-Alt1 Reading test is to provide evidence that students can take what they have learned in the classroom and *transfer* their knowledge and understanding to a new text presented on the assessment.

The Reading Performance Level Descriptors are aligned to extensions of the Common Core Reading and Language Standards and the DCAS-Alt1. They are designed to identify and define what students know and can do at a specific grade band and to assist parents and educators in understanding the performance level scores that students receives on the DCAS-Alt 1.



PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

READING – GRADE BAND 3-5

Performance Level 4 – Advanced	Performance Level 3 – Meets Standard	Performance Level 2 – Below Standard	Performance Level 1 – Well-Below Standard
Students at this level, when using grade-band reading content, consistently use the knowledge and skills articulated in the Delaware Grade Band Extensions for reading.	Students at this level, when using grade-band reading content, frequently use the knowledge and skills articulated in the Delaware Grade Band Extensions for reading.	Students at this level, when using grade-band reading content, partially use the knowledge and skills articulated in the Delaware Grade Band Extensions for reading.	Students at this level, when using grade-band reading content, minimally use the knowledge and skills articulated in the Delaware Grade Band Extensions for reading.

Content Summary Expectations

- Use text to support factual and inferential responses
- Determine the theme of and summarize a literary text
- Determine the main idea of and summarize an informational text
- Compare and contrast story elements
- Understand the meaning of figurative language
- Use text structure to identify different parts of a story and to sequence events
- Identify an author's point of view and/or purpose
- Understand relationships between individuals, events, or concepts
- Connect an author's supporting details to the main idea of a text
- Demonstrate command of English grammar
- Use language strategies to identify the meaning of words and phrases
- Identify synonyms and antonyms



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READING – GRADE BAND 6–8

Performance Level 4 – Advanced	Performance Level 3 – Meets Standard	Performance Level 2 – Below Standard	Performance Level 1 – Well-Below Standard
Students at this level, when using grade-band reading content, consistently use the knowledge and skills articulated in the Delaware Grade Band Extensions for reading.	Students at this level, when using grade-band reading content, frequently use the knowledge and skills articulated in the Delaware Grade Band Extensions for reading.	Students at this level, when using grade-band reading content, partially use the knowledge and skills articulated in the Delaware Grade Band Extensions for reading.	Students at this level, when using grade-band reading content, minimally use the knowledge and skills articulated in the Delaware Grade Band Extensions for reading.

Content Summary Expectations

- Use text to support factual and inferential responses
- Determine the theme of and summarize text
- Understand how dialogue or incidents affect a story
- Identify an author’s point of view and/or purpose
- Connect supporting details to the main idea of a text
- Analyze connections between individuals, ideas, or events in a text
- Identify the main idea of a paragraph
- Identify an author’s point of view and compare it with conflicting viewpoints
- Distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information in an argument or a claim
- Compare fact and opinion in two different texts
- Demonstrate command of English grammar
- Use context clues to determine the meaning of unknown words
- Identify synonyms, antonyms, and other word relationships



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READING – GRADE BAND High School

Performance Level 4 - Advanced	Performance Level 3 – Meets Standard	Performance Level 2 – Below Standard	Performance Level 1 – Well-Below Standard
Students at this level, when using grade-band reading content, consistently use the knowledge and skills articulated in the Delaware Grade Band Extensions for reading.	Students at this level, when using grade-band reading content, frequently use the knowledge and skills articulated in the Delaware Grade Band Extensions for reading.	Students at this level, when using grade-band reading content, partially use the knowledge and skills articulated in the Delaware Grade Band Extensions for reading.	Students at this level, when using grade-band reading content, minimally use the knowledge and skills articulated in the Delaware Grade Band Extensions for reading.

Content Summary Expectations

- Use text to support factual and inferential responses
- Determine the theme of and summarize text
- Understand the development of characters in a literary text
- Understand the meaning of words as they are used in a text
- Recognize the purpose of different text structures
- Connect supporting details to the main idea of a text
- Analyze order of events and connections between individuals, ideas, or events
- Identify supporting evidence for an author's ideas
- Analyze an author's point of view
- Distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information in an argument or a claim
- Demonstrate command of English grammar
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings
- Identify synonyms, antonyms, and other word relationships