

# PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTORS FOR MASTERY

## 8TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

### Reading:

#### Performance Descriptors

##### Mastery

Eighth grade students at mastery level in reading:

objectively summarize and cite textual evidence and make connections and inferences; analyze theme development and how sequence and complex characters are developed in literary and informational texts;

analyze how word choice, structure and point of view contribute to text development, tone, style, suspense and humor; compare and contrast among literary and informational texts;

analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production stays faithful to the text or script; evaluate the use of different mediums in presenting a topic; assess soundness of reasoning and relevance of evidence; identify conflicting information in two or more informational texts and draw from the themes, patterns of events or character types from early literary works to render modern works of fiction;

read and comprehend literary and informational texts in the grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

### Writing:

#### Performance Descriptors

##### Mastery

Eighth grade students at mastery level in writing:

compose arguments and informative/explanatory texts to create cohesion and clarify relationships among claims and counterclaims; organize information into broader categories using well-chosen facts, quotations and varied transitions; write well-structured narratives that capture action, use sensory language, reflection, provide a concluding statement and show relationships among experiences and events;

use technology to produce, publish, distribute and strengthen writings that address purpose and audience; present relationships efficiently;

use search terms effectively to conduct short research projects answering self-generated questions; explore multiple avenues, including informational and literary texts to support a research topic, analysis and reflection; assess the credibility and accuracy of sources; avoid plagiarism; and use standard citation;

write over extended time frames for research-based projects and shorter time frames for specific tasks, purposes and audiences

### Speaking and Listening:

#### Performance Descriptors

##### Mastery

Eighth grade students at mastery level in speaking and listening:

engage effectively in collaborative collegial discussions and decision-making; use information presented in diverse formats to engage in topics, texts and issues; analyze purpose, evaluate motives behind a presentation, identify irrelevant information, reflect, pose questions that connect ideas and when warranted qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented;

present claims that emphasize salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning and well-chosen details strengthened by integrating multimedia and visual displays that clarify information and add interest.

### Language:

#### Performance Descriptors

##### Mastery

Eighth grade students at mastery level in language:

use advanced verb forms and verbals; correct inappropriate shifts in voice and mood; use punctuation that indicates pause and omission; and use parallel structure;

use knowledge of language to understand word choices, including how verb voice and verb mood affect context, emphasis, expression and formal style;

interpret figures of speech such as verbal irony and puns in context.

Regional Education  
Service Agencies

RESA

• six •

A powerful engine for education



## 8TH GRADE MATHEMATICS

### Expressions and Equations:

#### Performance Descriptors

##### Mastery

Eighth grade students at the mastery level in mathematics:

generate equivalent numerical expressions from expressions involving integer exponents, use radicals to express square and cube roots and use scientific notation to express very large or small numbers and perform operations with numbers expressed in scientific notation;

make sense of proportional relationships and their representation in the equation and graph of a linear equation; discern a pattern between the equation  $y = mx + b$  and the graph of a line;

analyze linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations to solve mathematical problems and interpret the results in context.

### Mathematical Practices:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

### Geometry:

#### Performance Descriptors

##### Mastery

Eighth grade students at the mastery level in mathematics:

use the properties of transformations to understand and connect to congruence and similarity of two-dimensional figures, and to angles created by parallel lines cut by a transversal and triangles;

make sense of and communicate the relationship between the legs of a right triangle and its hypotenuse, and use the Pythagorean Theorem in real-world, coordinate plane, and mathematical problems;

understand and apply the volume formulas to solve real-world and mathematical problems involving cones, cylinders and spheres.

### Functions:

#### Performance Descriptors

##### Mastery

Eighth grade students at the mastery level in mathematics:

fluently interpret multiple representations of functions to make sense of their properties in problem situations, discern the structure and patterns of linear and non-linear functions;

construct and model the relationships between quantities in linear functions, with emphasis on the rate and initial value, and communicate the qualitative relationship between the variables in functions.

### Statistics and Probability:

#### Performance Descriptors

##### Mastery

Eighth grade students at the mastery level in mathematics:

make sense of bivariate measurement data and their relationship by constructing scatter plots; communicate the meaning of the data display and if a linear relationship exists, informally fit a line to the data; make sense of categorical data by making two-way tables and communicate the meaning of any association.



### Text-dependent Questions:

- Can only be answered with evidence from the text.
- Can be literal (checking for understanding) but must also involve analysis, synthesis, evaluation.
- Focus on word, sentence, and paragraph, as well as larger ideas, themes, or events.
- Focus on difficult portions of text in order to enhance reading proficiency.
- Can also include prompts for writing and discussion questions.

### Literacy Shifts in Mathematics:

1. Focus: Focus strongly where the Standards focus.
2. Coherence: Think across grades, and link to major topics within grades.
3. Rigor: In major topics pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application with equal intensity.

### Literacy Shifts in All Content Areas:

1. Regular practice with complex text and its academic language.
2. Reading, writing and speaking grounded in evidence from text, both literary and informational.
3. Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction.