Grade 7 Performance Level Descriptors

Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System - Alternate English Language Arts (NSCAS-AAELA)

Developing Established Distinguished		
Developing		Distinguished
Developing learners do not yet demonstrate	Established learners demonstrate proficiency	Distinguished learners demonstrate
proficiency in the knowledge and skills	in the knowledge and skills necessary at this	advanced proficiency in the knowledge and
necessary at this grade level, as specified in	grade level, as specified in the assessed	skills necessary at this grade level, as
the assessed Nebraska College- and Career-	Nebraska College- and Career-Ready	specified in the assessed Nebraska College-
Ready Standards. These results provide	Standards. These results provide evidence	and Career-Ready Standards. These results
evidence that the student may need	that the student will likely be ready for	provide evidence that the student will likely
additional support for academic success at	academic success at the next grade level.	be ready for academic success at the next
the next grade level.		grade level.
The student at this level	The student at this level	The student at this level
 Determines the meaning of words using common roots and the words that result when basic affixes are added. 	 Determines the meaning of words using roots and the words that result when affixes are added. 	 Determines the meaning of words using uncommon and content- specific roots and affixes and the words that result.
 Determines the meaning of simple words using context clues (e.g., word clues) and text features (e.g., titles, illustrations). 	 Determines the meaning of words using context clues (e.g., word, phrase, and/or sentence clues) and text features (e.g., titles, illustrations, tables of contents, schedules). 	Determines the meaning of uncommon words using context clues (e.g., word, phrase, and/or sentence clues) and text features (e.g., titles, illustrations, tables of contents, captions, glossaries, schedules).
 Identifies simple semantic relationships (i.e., synonyms and antonyms). 	 Identifies semantic relationships (i.e., synonyms, antonyms, homophones, and homographs). 	 Identifies semantic relationships using uncommon or content-specific words (i.e., synonyms, antonyms, homophones, and homographs).
 Identifies if an author's purpose is to entertain, inform, or persuade when 	Determines if an author's purpose is	Determines if an author's purpose is

it is stated.	to entertain, inform, or persuade.	to entertain, inform, or persuade when it is implied or in a more complex text.
 Identifies basic elements of literary 		
text (e.g., character[s], setting).	 Identifies and describes elements of literary text (e.g., character[s], setting, conflict, story sequence). 	 Identifies and describes complex elements of literary text (e.g., character[s], setting, conflict, story sequence, point of view).
Recognizes simple literary devices		
used in literary text (e.g., onomatopoeia, personification).	 Recognizes how literary devices are used purposefully in literary text (e.g., onomatopoeia, personification, alliteration, simile, metaphor). 	 Recognizes how literary devices are used purposefully in complex literary text (e.g., onomatopoeia, personification, alliteration, simile, metaphor, idiom).
Identifies a detail of a simple literary		
text.	 Summarizes a literary text using key details. 	 Summarizes a complex literary text using relevant key details in sequential order.
a) Identifies a detail of a simple		
informational text; b) Identifies the main idea of informational text.	 a) Summarizes an informational text using key details; b) Identifies the main idea of an informational text using key details. 	 a) Summarizes a complex, informational text using key details; b) Identifies the main idea of a complex informational text using key details.
Locates information using basic text features (e.g. titles, tables of contents, illustrations, headings).	 Locates information using text features (e.g., titles, tables of contents illustrations, headings, graphs, indices,). 	 Locates information using complex text features (e.g., titles, tables of contents illustrations, headings, graphs, indices, maps, timelines, websites).
Identifies simple literary and	 Identifies a variety of literary and 	Identifies a wide variety of literary

informational texts (e.g., textbooks, schedules, menus, calendars, stories).

- Answers simple literal and/or inferential questions about the text.
- Identifies organizational patterns in simple informational text (e.g., compare/contrast, cause/effect, sequence/chronological).
- Supports a claim using relevant evidence.
- Edits writing for basic conventions of standard English in a simple sentence (e.g., initial and familiar proper noun capitalization, punctuation limited to period and question mark).
- Identifies evidence related to a simple idea found in the literary or informational text.
- Identifies precise word choice for a mode.

informational texts using textual characteristics (e.g., textbooks, magazines, newspapers, schedules, menus, calendars, stories, poems, dramas).

- Answers literal and inferential questions using explicit evidence from the text.
- Identifies organizational patterns in informational text (e.g., compare/contrast, cause/effect, problem/solution, sequence/chronological).
- Supports a claim or thesis using relevant evidence.
- Edits writing for conventions of standard English (e.g., initial and proper noun capitalization, punctuation limited to period and question mark).
- Identifies evidence that supports an idea found in the literary or informational text.
- Identifies precise word choice for each mode.

and informational texts using textual characteristics (e.g., textbooks, periodicals, schedules, menus, calendars, stories, poems, dramas, websites).

- Answers complex literal and inferential questions using explicit evidence from the text.
- Identifies organizational patterns in complex informational text (e.g., compare/contrast, cause/effect, problem/solution, sequence/chronological).
- Supports a claim or thesis using relevant evidence effectively.
- Edits writing for conventions of standard English in complex text (e.g., initial and content-specific proper noun capitalization, punctuation limited to period and question mark).
- Identifies relevant evidence that supports a complex idea found in the literary or informational text.
- Applies precise, appropriate word choice for a variety of modes.