Grade 8
Pass+
Eighth-grade students performing at the Pass+ level demonstrate advanced understanding when reading, comparing, and responding to a range of grade-level appropriate texts, including literature and nonfiction. Students display advanced writing skills using appropriate Standard English conventions when producing different writing forms.

When reading literature, such as fiction and poetry, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 8 students scoring at the Pass+ level include:

- Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience in a text;
- Analyze the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone;
- Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how each structure impacts meaning; and
- Analyze how works of literature draw on and transform earlier texts.

When reading nonfiction, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 8 students scoring at the Pass+ level include:

- Analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints;
- Analyze the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone;
- Analyze how a text makes connections and distinctions among individuals, events, and ideas;
- Delineate and evaluate arguments; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced; and
- Analyze two or more works with conflicting information, explaining the differences.

When writing, students craft well-organized, clearly focused, and detailed argumentative, informative, and narrative compositions, including a response to a literature or nonfiction text, using varied word choices and appropriate Standard English conventions. Specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 8 students scoring at the Pass+ level include:

- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or convince, providing developed details and facts that connect to the purpose and acknowledge other points of view;
- Use precise words, phrases, sensory language, and content vocabulary appropriate to the audience and purpose; and
- Write focused and detailed compositions containing interesting word choices, effectively organized ideas, well-developed thoughts, and cohesiveness.

Grade 8
Pass
Eighth-grade students performing at the Pass level demonstrate proficient understanding when reading, comparing, and responding to a range of grade-level
appropriate texts, including literature and nonfiction. Students display proficient writing skills using mostly appropriate Standard English conventions when producing different writing forms.

When reading literature, such as fiction and poetry, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 8 students scoring at the Pass level include:
- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports analysis of inferences drawn from the text;
- Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts;
- Analyze the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in text;
- Analyze the development of a theme or central idea over the course of a text; and
- Analyze how dialogue or incidents in a text contribute to its meaning.

When reading nonfiction, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 8 students scoring at the Pass level include:
- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports analysis of inferences drawn from the text;
- Analyze the development of the central idea over the course of a text;
- Analyze the structure in a text, including how major sections contribute to the development of ideas;
- Analyze the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in text;
- Analyze the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone; and
- Identify and analyze persuasive and propaganda techniques used in media.

When writing, students craft proficient argumentative, informative, and narrative compositions, including a response to a literature or nonfiction text, using varied word choices and mostly appropriate Standard English conventions. Specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 8 students scoring at the Pass level include:
- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or convince, providing details and facts that connect to the purpose;
- Assess the credibility and accuracy of sources;
- Write to a specific audience and purpose; and
- Write focused and detailed compositions containing some interesting word choices, organized ideas, developed thoughts, and cohesion.

**Grade 8 Did Not Pass**

Eighth-grade students performing at the Did Not Pass level demonstrate limited understanding when reading, comparing, and responding to grade-level appropriate texts, including literature and nonfiction. Students display limited writing skills using basic appropriate Standard English conventions when producing different writing forms.

When reading literature, such as fiction and poetry, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 8 students scoring at the Did Not Pass level include:
- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports analysis of what the text says explicitly;
- Provide a detailed, objective summary of the text; and
- Determine the meaning of words or phrases used in a text.
When reading **nonfiction**, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 8 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports analysis of what the text says explicitly;
- Provide a detailed, objective summary of the text; and
- Determine the meaning of words or phrases used in a text.

When **writing**, students craft limited argumentative, informative, and narrative compositions, including a response to a literature or nonfiction text, using varied word choices and basic appropriate Standard English conventions. Specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 8 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Write compositions to describe, explain, and/or convince, providing minimal details and facts that connect to the purpose;
- Use language, words, and tone minimally appropriate to the audience and purpose; and
- Write compositions containing some interesting word choices, organized ideas, and minimally developed thoughts.