



Summative Assessment ELA Range Achievement Level Descriptors

What are Range Achievement Level Descriptors?

Range Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) demonstrate how skills described in the Nebraska College and Career Ready (CCR) Standards likely change and become more sophisticated as ability and performance increases. The ALDs also describe the evidence needed to help infer where a student is along the range. This range is defined by Nebraska using three levels:

- Developing – not yet demonstrating proficiency
- On Track – demonstrating proficiency
- College and Career Benchmark – demonstrating advanced proficiency

The ALDs help show the within-standard reasoning complexity that increases in sophistication as the achievement levels increase. Such skill advancement is often related to increases in content difficulty, increases in reasoning complexity, and a reduction in the supports required for students to demonstrate what they know within a task or item.

The Range ALDs provide a way to communicate a progression that is visible and usable to all stakeholders, while also providing a foundation for a robust bank of assessment items that meets the needs of all Nebraska students.

How were Nebraska's ELA ALDs created?

After the 2018 ELA Cut Score Review, Nebraska educators and stakeholders drafted ALDs for grades 3 through 8. NDE reviewed the draft and provided feedback which was then incorporated.

NSCAS ELA
Grade 8 Range ALDs

ALD	Indicator No.	Indicator Text	Developing	On Track	CCR Benchmark
text complexity			With a range of texts with text complexity commonly found in Grade 8, a student performing in Developing can likely	With a range of texts with text complexity commonly found in Grade 8, a student performing in On Track can likely	With a range of texts with text complexity commonly found at the intersection of Grade 8 and Grade 9, a student performing in CCR Benchmark can likely
Reading Vocabulary					
	LA 8.1	Reading: Students will learn and apply reading skills and strategies to comprehend text.			
	LA 8.1.5	Vocabulary: Students will build and use conversational, academic, and content-specific grade-level vocabulary.			
	LA 8.1.5.a	Apply knowledge of Greek, Latin, and Anglo- Saxon roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand complex words, including words across content areas.	Identify and apply knowledge of common Greek, Latin, and Anglo- Saxon roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand simple words, including across content areas.	Apply knowledge of Greek, Latin, and Anglo- Saxon roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand complex words, including words across content areas.	Apply knowledge of uncommon Greek, Latin, and Anglo- Saxon roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand complex and uncommon words, including words across content areas, and articulate how the word parts affect the meaning of those words.
	LA 8.1.5.b	Select and apply knowledge of context clues (e.g., word, phrase, sentence, and paragraph clues) and text features to determine meaning of unknown words.	Select and apply explicit context clues (e.g., word, phrase, and sentence clues) and basic text features to determine the meaning of unknown words.	Select and apply knowledge of context clues (e.g., word, phrase, sentence, paragraph and passage clues) and text features to determine the meaning of unknown words.	Select and apply knowledge of subtle context clues (e.g., word, phrase, sentence, paragraph, and passage clues) and text features to determine the meaning of sophisticated, unknown words.
	LA 8.1.5.c	Acquire new academic and content-specific grade-level vocabulary, relate to prior knowledge, and apply in new situations.	Acquire new academic and content-specific grade-level vocabulary and relate to prior knowledge.	Acquire new academic and content-specific grade-level vocabulary, relate to prior knowledge, and apply in new situations.	Acquire sophisticated new academic and content-specific above-grade-level vocabulary, relate to prior knowledge, and apply accurately in new situations.

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	LA 8.1.5.d	Analyze and use semantic relationships (e.g., multiple meanings, synonyms, antonyms, figurative language, connotations, subtle distinctions) to determine the meaning of words, aid in comprehension, and improve writing.	Identify and use basic semantic relationships (e.g., multiple meanings, synonyms, antonyms, figurative language) to determine the meaning of words and aid in comprehension.	Analyze and use semantic relationships (e.g., multiple meanings, synonyms, antonyms, figurative language, connotations, subtle distinctions) to determine the meaning of words, aid in comprehension, and improve writing.	Analyze, use, and explain complex semantic relationships (e.g., multiple meanings, synonyms, antonyms, figurative language, connotations, subtle distinctions) to determine the meaning of words in unfamiliar contexts, aid in comprehension, and improve writing.
	LA 8.1.5.e	Verify meaning and pronunciation of words or phrases using reference materials.	Determine meaning and attempt pronunciation of words or phrases using reference materials.	Determine meaning and pronunciation of words or phrases using reference materials.	Determine pronunciation and most precise meaning of words or phrases using a variety of reference materials.
Reading Comprehension					
	LA 8.1	Reading: Students will learn and apply reading skills and strategies to comprehend text.			
	LA 8.1.6	Comprehension: Students will construct meaning by applying prior knowledge, using text information, and monitoring comprehension while reading increasingly complex grade-level literary and informational text.			
	LA 8.1.6.a	Analyze the meaning, reliability, and validity of text considering author's purpose and perspective.	Identify the meaning of text considering the author's purpose and perspective.	Analyze the meaning, reliability, and validity of text considering author's purpose and perspective.	Analyze the implicit meaning, reliability, and validity of text considering author's subtle purpose and perspective.
	LA 8.1.6.b	Analyze and explain the relationships between elements of literary text (e.g., character development, setting, plot, conflict, point of view, inferred and recurring themes).	Identify and explain relationships between basic elements of literary text (e.g., character development, setting, plot, conflict, point of view).	Analyze and explain the relationships between elements of literary text (e.g., character development, setting, plot, conflict, point of view, inferred and recurring themes) and cite specific evidence from the text to explain those relationships.	Analyze and explain subtle relationships between elements of literary text (e.g., character development, setting, plot, conflict, point of view, inferred and recurring themes) and cite specific evidence from the text to demonstrate those relationships.

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	LA 8.1.6.c	Analyze the author's use of literary devices (e.g., simile, metaphor, personification, idiom, oxymoron, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia, analogy, tone, mood).	Identify and explain the author's use of basic literary devices (e.g., simile, metaphor, personification, idiom, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia).	Analyze the meaning of the author's use of literary devices (e.g., simile, metaphor, personification, idiom, oxymoron, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia, analogy, tone, mood).	Analyze the meaning of, subtle distinctions between, and author's purpose for using literary devices (e.g., simile, metaphor, personification, idiom, oxymoron, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia, analogy, tone, mood).
	LA 8.1.6.d	Summarize, analyze and synthesize the development of a common theme between two literary texts and/or media.	Summarize, Identify, and describe the development of a theme in a single text.	Summarize, analyze, and synthesize the development of a common theme between two literary texts and/or media.	Summarize, analyze, and synthesize the development of a sophisticated or implied theme between two literary texts and/or media.
	LA 8.1.6.e	Summarize, analyze, and synthesize the connection between the main ideas of two informational texts and/or media.	Summarize and compare the explicit main ideas of two informational texts and/or media.	Summarize, analyze, and synthesize the connection between the main ideas of two informational texts and/or media.	Summarize, analyze, and synthesize the connection between the ideas and details of two informational texts and/or media.
	LA 8.1.6.f	Analyze and evaluate information from print and digital text features to support comprehension.	Use information from print and digital text features to support comprehension of basic texts.	Analyze and evaluate information from print and digital text features to support comprehension.	Analyze and evaluate information from print and digital text features to support comprehension of complex texts.
	LA 8.1.6.g	Cite specific textual evidence to analyze and make inferences based on the characteristics of a variety of literary and informational texts.	Cite textual evidence to support inferences based on the basic characteristics of a variety of literary and informational texts.	Cite specific textual evidence to analyze and make inferences based on the characteristics of a variety of literary and informational texts.	Cite the most specific and relevant textual evidence to analyze and make inferences based on the complex or implicit characteristics of a variety of literary and informational texts.

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	LA 8.1.6.h	Analyze the social, historical, cultural, and biographical influences in a variety of texts, citing textual evidence from literary and informational text to develop a national and international multicultural perspective.	Identify the historical and biographical influences of text, citing textual evidence from literary and informational text to develop a national and international multicultural perspective.	Analyze the social, historical, cultural, and biographical influences in a variety of texts, citing relevant textual evidence from literary and informational text to develop a national and international multicultural perspective.	Analyze the social, historical, cultural, and biographical influences in a variety of texts, citing the most relevant textual evidence from literary and informational text to develop a national and international multicultural perspective.
	LA 8.1.6.i	Construct and/or answer literal, inferential, critical, and interpretive questions and support answers with explicit evidence from the text or additional sources.	Answer literal, inferential, and critical questions and support answers with explicit evidence from the text or additional sources.	Construct and/or answer literal, inferential, critical, and interpretive questions and support answers with relevant evidence from the text or additional sources.	Construct and/or answer complex literal, inferential, critical, and interpretive questions and support answers with the most relevant evidence from the text or additional sources.
	LA 8.1.6.j	Apply knowledge of organizational patterns to comprehend informational text (e.g., sequence/chronological, description, spatial, cause and effect, compare/contrast, fact/opinion, proposition/support).	Apply knowledge of explicit organizational patterns to comprehend informational text (e.g., sequence/chronological, description, cause and effect, fact/opinion).	Apply knowledge of organizational patterns to comprehend informational text (e.g., sequence/chronological, description, spatial, cause and effect, compare/contrast, fact/opinion, proposition/support).	Apply knowledge of subtle organizational patterns to comprehend informational text (e.g., sequence/chronological, description, spatial, cause and effect, compare/contrast, fact/opinion, proposition/support).

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	LA 8.1.6.k	Select text for a particular purpose (e.g., answer a question, solve problems, enjoy, form an opinion, understand a specific viewpoint, predict outcomes, discover models for own writing, accomplish a task), citing evidence to support analysis, reflection, or research.	Select text for a particular purpose (e.g., answer a question, enjoy, form an opinion, understand a specific viewpoint, accomplish a task), citing evidence to support research.	Select appropriate text for a particular purpose (e.g., answer a question, solve problems, enjoy, form an opinion, understand a specific viewpoint, predict outcomes, discover models for own writing, accomplish a task), citing relevant evidence to support analysis, reflection, or research.	Select appropriate, complex text for a particular purpose (e.g., answer a question, solve problems, enjoy, form an opinion, understand a specific viewpoint, predict outcomes, discover models for own writing, accomplish a task), citing relevant evidence to support analysis, reflection, or research.
	LA 8.1.6.l	Build background knowledge and activate prior knowledge to clarify text, deepen understanding, and make connections while reading complex text.	Build background knowledge and activate prior knowledge to clarify text and deepen understanding while reading text.	Build background knowledge and activate prior knowledge to clarify text, deepen understanding, and make connections while reading complex text.	Build or extend background knowledge and activate prior knowledge to clarify text, deepen understanding, and make sophisticated connections while reading complex text.
	LA 8.1.6.m	Self-monitor comprehension and independently apply appropriate strategies to understand text.	Self-monitor comprehension using provided strategies to understand text (e.g. close reading strategies, graphic organizers, multiple reads).	Self-monitor comprehension and independently apply appropriate strategies to understand text.	Self-monitor comprehension and independently apply appropriate strategies to understand and analyze complex text.
	LA 8.1.6.n	Make and confirm/modify inferences with text evidence while previewing and reading literary, informational, digital text, and/or media.	Make and confirm inferences with text evidence while previewing and reading simple literary, informational, digital text, and/or media.	Make and confirm/modify inferences with relevant text evidence while previewing and reading literary, informational, digital text, and/or media.	Make and confirm/modify sophisticated inferences with relevant text evidence while previewing and reading complex literary, informational, digital text, and/or media.

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	LA 8.1.6.o	Demonstrate an understanding of complex text using textual evidence via multiple mediums (e.g., writing, artistic representation, video, other media).	Demonstrate an understanding of text using explicit textual evidence via multiple mediums (e.g., writing, artistic representation, video, other media).	Demonstrate an understanding of complex text using textual evidence via multiple mediums (e.g., writing, artistic representation, video, other media).	Demonstrate an understanding of complex text using implicit textual evidence via multiple mediums (e.g., writing, artistic representation, video, other media).
	LA 8.1.6.p	Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story, drama, or poem resembles or differs from the text or script.	Identify the ways in which a filmed or live production of a story, drama, or poem resembles or differs from the text or script.	Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story, drama, or poem resembles or differs from the text or script.	Analyze the similarities and differences between a filmed or live production of a story, drama, or poem and its text or script, and describe the impact(s) caused by the differences.
Writing Skills					
	LA 8.2	Writing: Students will learn and apply writing skills and strategies to communicate.			
	LA 8.2.1	Writing Process: Students will apply the writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish writing using correct spelling, grammar, punctuation,			
	LA 8.2.1.a	Use prewriting activities and inquiry tools to recursively generate ideas, organize information, guide writing, answer questions, and synthesize information.	Use prewriting activities and inquiry tools to generate ideas, organize information, and guide writing.	Use prewriting activities and inquiry tools to generate ideas, organize information, guide writing, answer questions, and synthesize information.	Use prewriting activities and inquiry tools to recursively generate ideas, organize information, guide writing, answer questions, and synthesize information.

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	LA 8.2.1.b	Generate a draft that conveys complex ideas through analysis and use of organizational patterns that are suited to the purpose and intended audience and includes a strong thesis, body, conclusion, and appropriate transitions linked to the purpose of the composition.	Generate a draft that conveys ideas through basic analysis and the use of foundational organizational patterns which may include a thesis, body, conclusion, and simple transitions related to the purpose of the composition.	Generate a draft that conveys ideas through analysis and use of organizational patterns that are suited to the purpose and intended audience and includes a strong thesis, body, conclusion, and appropriate transitions linked to the purpose of the composition.	Generate a draft that conveys complex ideas through analysis and the use of organizational patterns best suited to the purpose and intended audience and includes a strong thesis, body, conclusion, and appropriate transitions linked to the purpose of the composition.
	LA 8.2.1.c	Gather and use relevant information and evidence from multiple authoritative print and/or digital sources including primary and secondary sources to support claims or theses.	Gather and use information from print and/or digital sources including primary and secondary sources to support claims or theses.	Gather and use relevant information and evidence from multiple print and/or digital sources including primary and secondary sources to support claims or theses.	Gather and use the most relevant information and evidence from multiple authoritative print and/or digital sources, including primary and secondary sources to support claims or theses.
	LA 8.2.1.d	Compose paragraphs with grammatically correct simple, compound, and complex sentences of varying length and complexity.	Compose paragraphs with grammatically correct simple and compound sentences.	Compose paragraphs with grammatically correct simple, compound, and complex sentences of varying length and complexity.	Compose paragraphs with grammatically correct simple, compound, and complex sentences of varying length and complexity using stylistic and purposeful syntax.

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	LA 8.2.1.e	Revise to improve and clarify writing through self-monitoring strategies and feedback from others.	Revise writing based on feedback and with support from others.	Revise to improve and clarify writing through self-monitoring strategies and feedback from others.	Thoroughly revise to improve and clarify writing through self-monitoring strategies and applying feedback from others.
	LA 8.2.1.f	Provide oral, written, and/or digital descriptive feedback to other writers.	Provide basic oral, written, and/or digital feedback to other writers using predetermined criteria and models.	Provide oral, written, and/or digital descriptive feedback to other writers.	Provide clear, specific, and reflective oral, written, and/or digital descriptive feedback to other writers.
	LA 8.2.1.g	Adjust writing processes to persevere in short and long-term writing tasks of increasing length and complexity.	Adjust writing processes to persevere in short-term writing tasks.	Adjust writing processes to persevere in short and long-term writing tasks of increasing length.	Adjust writing processes to persevere in short and long-term writing tasks of increasing length and complexity.
	LA 8.2.1.h	Proofread and edit writing recursively for format and conventions of standard English (e.g., spelling, capitalization, grammar, punctuation, syntax, semantics).	Proofread and edit writing for basic format and conventions of standard English (e.g., spelling, capitalization, grammar, punctuation).	Proofread and edit writing recursively for format and conventions of standard English (e.g., spelling, capitalization, grammar, punctuation, syntax, semantics).	Proofread and edit writing recursively and purposefully for format, conventions, and stylistic effects of standard English (e.g., spelling, capitalization, grammar, punctuation, syntax, semantics).

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	LA 8.2.1.i	Display academic honesty and integrity by avoiding plagiarism and/or overreliance on any one source and by following a standard format for citation.	Identify examples of plagiarism and academic honesty and integrity.	Display academic honesty and integrity by avoiding plagiarism and/or overreliance on any one source and by following a standard format for citation.	Display academic honesty by avoiding plagiarism and/or overreliance on one source by consistently following a standard format for citation.
	LA 8.2.1.j	Publish a legible document using a variety of media, and apply formatting techniques to enhance the readability and impact of the document (e.g., fonts, spacing, design, images, citations).	Publish a legible document and apply basic formatting techniques (e.g., fonts, spacing, design, images).	Publish a legible document using a variety of media, and apply formatting techniques to enhance the readability and impact of the document (e.g., fonts, spacing, design, images, citations).	Publish a legible document using a variety of carefully selected media, and apply sophisticated formatting techniques to enhance the readability, meaning, and impact of the document (e.g., fonts, spacing, design, images, citations).
	LA 8.2.2	Writing Modes: Students will write in multiple modes for a variety of purposes and audiences across disciplines.			
	LA 8.2.2.a	Communicate information and ideas effectively in analytic, argumentative, descriptive, informative, narrative, poetic, persuasive, and reflective modes to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.	Communicate information and ideas in analytic, argumentative, descriptive, informative, narrative, poetic, persuasive, and reflective modes to an audience using familiar media and formats.	Communicate information and ideas effectively in analytic, argumentative, descriptive, informative, narrative, poetic, persuasive, and reflective modes to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.	Communicate information and complex ideas effectively in analytic, argumentative, descriptive, informative, narrative, poetic, persuasive, and reflective modes to multiple audiences using a variety of carefully selected media and formats.

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	LA 8.2.2.b	Provide evidence from literary or informational text to support analysis, reflection, and research.	Provide explicit evidence from literary or informational text to support research.	Provide evidence from literary or informational text to support analysis, reflection, or research.	Provide the most relevant evidence from literary or informational text to support and synthesize analysis, reflections, or research.
	LA 8.2.2.c	Conduct and publish both short and sustained research projects to answer questions or solve problems using multiple primary and/or secondary sources to support theses.	Conduct and publish both short and sustained research projects in an attempt to answer basic questions or to solve simple problems using primary or secondary sources to support a thesis.	Conduct and publish both short and sustained research projects to answer questions or solve problems using multiple primary and/or secondary sources to support theses.	Conduct and publish both short and sustained research projects to answer self-generated, complex questions or solve multi-layered problems using multiple primary and secondary sources to support theses.
	LA 8.2.2.d	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.	Use basic word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.	Skillfully use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.
	LA 8.2.2.e	Analyze various mentor texts and/or exemplars in order to create a similar piece.	Identify basic and explicit characteristics from mentor texts and/or exemplars in order to create a similar piece.	Analyze characteristics in various mentor texts and/or exemplars in order to create a similar piece.	Analyze subtle characteristics in various mentor texts and/or exemplars in order to create a similar piece.