

DC-CAS: PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS



Reading Grade 3

The DC-CAS is a standards-based assessment. Based on performance, each student is classified as performing at one of four performance levels: advanced, proficient, basic, or below basic. The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student is able to demonstrate at each performance level.

Below Basic

Students are able to use vocabulary skills, such as identifying literal or common meanings of words and phrases, sometimes using context clues. Students are able to read some third grade informational and literary texts and can identify a main idea, make some meaning of text features and graphics, form questions, locate text details, and identify simple relationships (e.g., cause/effect) in texts.

Basic

Students are able to use vocabulary skills, such as identifying words with prefixes and suffixes and distinguishing between literal and non-literal meanings of some common words and phrases. Students are able to read some third grade informational and literary texts and can identify main points and some supporting facts, locate stated facts and specific information in graphics, form questions, identify lessons in a text, make simple connections within and between texts, describe and compare characters, and make simple interpretations.

Proficient

Students are able to use vocabulary skills, such as identifying affixes and root words and using context clues to interpret non-literal words and meanings of unknown words. Students are able to read third grade informational and literary texts and can distinguish between stated and implied facts and cause/effect relationships, determine and synthesize steps in a process, connect procedures to real life situations, explain key ideas in stories, explain relationships among characters, identify subtle personality traits of characters, and connect story details to prior knowledge.

Advanced

Students are able to use vocabulary skills, such as identifying the figurative meanings or non-literal meanings of some words and phrases in a moderately complex text. Students are able to read third grade informational and literary texts and summarize the information or story with supporting details, apply text information to graphics, identify and explain relationships of facts and cause/effect relationships, use text features to make predictions, distinguish between fact and fiction, identify a speaker in a poem or narrator in a story, explain key ideas with supporting details, use context to interpret simple figurative language, and determine simple patterns in poetry.

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Mathematics Grade 3

The DC-CAS is a standards-based assessment. Based on performance, each student is classified as performing at one of four performance levels: advanced, proficient, basic, or below basic. The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student is able to demonstrate at each performance level.

Below Basic

Students may be able to show an understanding of the values of the digits; identify and represent fractions as parts of whole units or collections; determine the value of variables in simple equations using addition, subtraction, and multiplication; determine if a shape has been flipped, turned, or slid to maintain its measurements; and record some outcomes for simple events (e.g., tossing of coins).

Basic

Students perform computations of addition and subtraction with whole numbers up to five digits; show the understanding of the number system by reading, writing, or modeling to at least 10,000; show the understanding of the value of the digits; identify and represent fractions as parts of whole units or collections; extend patterns with addition or subtraction; solve equations using addition, subtraction or multiplication; perform appropriate numeric operations in correct sequence, and use strategies to solve real world problems; identify and extend simple patterns, evaluate simple expressions; and use scale drawings to represent data and solve measurement problems in one or two dimensions for which the solution is easily recognized and straight forward.

Proficient

Students perform computations with whole numbers and fractions, perform operations on numbers in correct sequence, create and use simple expressions to solve real world problems; identify and extend patterns, and solve simple one-step equations; use place value concepts to apply basic measurement and geometry concepts to describe shapes or objects; use informal reasoning to make appropriate decisions about how to solve problems; and use mathematical language to communicate their thinking and solutions in a clear manner.

Advanced

Students perform computations with whole numbers and fractions, perform operations on numbers and parenthetical expressions in correct sequence, create and use simple expressions to model real world problems; identify and extend patterns, and solve one-step equations; use ordered pairs of numbers to graph, locate, and identify points and describe a location on a grid; compute elapsed time; carry out simple conversions within a system of measurement; compare and analyze features of two- and three-dimensional shapes; list and count the number of possible combinations of objects from a given set; find the area and perimeter of given common shapes; and use mathematical language to communicate their thinking and solutions in a clear manner.