

**Louisiana Educational Assessment Program
LEAP Alternate Assessment, Level 2 (LAA 2)
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement Level Descriptors: Grade 8**

Achievement Level	Descriptors
Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
Mastery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
Basic	<p>A student at this level has demonstrated only the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for the next level of schooling.</p> <p>Students scoring at this level generally exhibit the ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate both literal and overall understanding of what they read; • identify some elements of text and an author’s purpose; • extend the ideas in text by making simple inferences and drawing conclusions; recognize and relate connections among ideas in texts by drawing conclusions; • research a topic by selecting and using information in various sources; • express some critical and/or creative thinking in response to a writing task; • develop a central idea with a consistent focus, appropriate organization, and elaboration with some supporting details; • demonstrate audience awareness through use of appropriate but general language and some sentence variety, and a sense of personal style; and • demonstrate some command of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.
Approaching Basic	<p>A student at this level has only partially demonstrated the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for the next level of schooling.</p> <p>Students scoring at this level generally exhibit the ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate partial understanding of what they read; • make a few interpretations and extensions of ideas in texts; • make simple and broad connections between text and personal experiences; • research a topic by locating some information in commonly used sources; • demonstrate a partial response to a writing task; • develop a weak central idea with some evidence of organization and elaboration with few or inappropriate supporting details; • demonstrate limited awareness of audience through use of simple or inappropriate vocabulary and simple sentences; and • demonstrate limited command of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

<p>Foundational</p>	<p>A student at this level has <i>not</i> demonstrated the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for the next level of schooling but has demonstrated the foundational knowledge and skills that can be built upon to access the grade-level curriculum.</p> <p>Students scoring at this level generally exhibit the ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate a minimal understanding of what they read; • make minimal interpretations and extensions of ideas in the text; • make minimal connections between the texts and personal experiences; • research a topic by locating minimal information in commonly used sources; • demonstrate a minimal response to a writing task; • develop a response to a writing task with a weak or unfocused idea, attempted organization, and little or irrelevant support; • show minimal audience awareness through use of simple or inappropriate vocabulary and simple sentences; and • demonstrate minimal command of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.
<p>Pre-Foundational</p>	<p>A student at this level has <i>not</i> demonstrated the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for the next level of schooling. However, the student may be developing the foundational knowledge and skills that can be built upon to access the grade-level curriculum.</p> <p>Students scoring at this level <i>need to develop</i> the ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand what they read; • make at least minimal interpretations and extensions of ideas in the text; • locate some information within commonly used sources; • develop a response to a writing task with some evidence of a central idea, attempted organization, and some supporting details; • show at least minimal audience awareness through use of simple vocabulary and simple sentences; and • demonstrate at least minimal command of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.