Grade 8 Mathematics Performance Level Descriptors

Advanced: Students demonstrate superior performance on challenging subject matter. In addition to demonstrating a broad and in-depth understanding and application of all skills at the Proficient level, students scoring at the **Advanced** level typically generate, simplify, and evaluate complex equivalent expressions. Students make connections between volume and surface area to solve problems involving solids and compare the volume and surface area of different solids. Students describe the impact on central tendencies of a data set with multiple outliers and when inserting or deleting multiple data points. Students solve complex and non-routine real-world problems, draw logical conclusions and justify solutions.

Proficient: Students demonstrate mastery over appropriate grade-level subject matter and readiness for the next grade level. Students scoring at the **Proficient** level typically generate, simplify, and evaluate equivalent expressions. Students classify and explain operational closure of rational and irrational numbers. Students distinguish between a linear and nonlinear function. Students identify independent and dependent variables. Students describe, analyze, and represent linear functions with two variables and translate between representations. Students use and apply the Pythagorean Theorem. Students describe the impact on central tendencies of a data set with an outlier and when inserting or deleting a data point. Students interpret a scatterplot, determine the rate of change, and use a line of best fit to make predictions. Students calculate, interpret, and predict experimental probability and generalize samples to populations. Students solve real-world problems and employ problem-solving strategies of identifying and using appropriate information.

Basic: Students demonstrate partial mastery of the essential knowledge and skills appropriate to their grade level. Students scoring at the **Basic** level simplify and generate simple equivalent expressions, including expressions in scientific notation. Students translate between standard form and scientific notation. Students identify and compare real numbers. Students recognize if a graph represents a linear function. Students identify intercepts and slope from the graph of a line. Students identify the effect on the graph of a linear function when characteristics are changed. Students solve and graph equations and inequalities. Students use the Pythagorean Theorem to identify right triangles and to find the length of the hypotenuse. Students calculate the surface area and volume of solids. Students identify the outliers of a data set. Students identify the line of best fit from a given scatterplot and determine if the rate of change is positive or negative. Students calculate the experimental probability of single events, identify sample spaces, and classify events as independent or dependent.

Below Basic: Students have not performed at least at the Basic level. Students scoring at the **Below Basic** level should be given comprehensive mathematical instruction.