PASA – ELA (READING)
TIER 1
PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS
GRADE 3 – TIER 1 – EMERGING
A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the Emerging Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying the meaning of a familiar word or phrase with support,
✓ answering simple literal questions with support and guidance.

GRADE 3 – TIER 1 – NOVICE
A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the Novice Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Emerging level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying one clearly stated event in the text with support,
✓ identifying the meaning of common words using root word meaning,
✓ answering literal questions with support.

GRADE 3 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT
A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the Proficient Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Novice Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying one key fact to answer literal questions,
✓ identifying the main idea explicitly stated in the text,
✓ identifying one action of a central character,
✓ identifying the meaning of common vocabulary words, including those with multiple meanings,
✓ answering literal questions.

GRADE 3 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED
A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the Advanced Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Proficient Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying one or more explicitly stated key details to answer questions,
✓ identifying the literal and non-literal meaning of less common words, including those with multiple meanings,
✓ generating a question about the text with support,
✓ identifying basic similarities or differences between 2 pieces of text,
✓ retelling stories with support,
✓ identifying which character is telling the story with support,
✓ identifying the feature that links 2 events in the story,
✓ identifying one general point of view in a text with support.

As approved by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2019
GRADE 4 – TIER 1 – EMERGING
A fourth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Emerging Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by,

✓ identifying any detail or event from the story with support,
✓ identifying the meaning of common words and phrases with support,
✓ answering basic literal questions with support.

GRADE 4 – TIER 1 – NOVICE
A fourth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Novice Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Emerging level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

✓ identifying a clearly stated main idea in a text with support,
✓ identifying one detail within the text that supports a point explicitly made in the text,
✓ identifying the meaning of commonly encountered words using context or using prefixes and root words.

GRADE 4 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT
A fourth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Proficient Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Novice Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

✓ identifying one or more details to answer questions about a character,
✓ answering literal questions,
✓ identifying a simplified theme or central message in a text.

GRADE 4 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED
A fourth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Advanced Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Proficient Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

✓ identifying one or more details to answer questions about events, characters, concepts or steps in a text,
✓ answering basic inferential questions,
✓ identifying one detail from 2 different texts about the same topic,
✓ identifying text structures or features in a text.

As approved by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2019
As approved by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2019

GRADE 5 – TIER 1 – EMERGING
A fifth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Emerging Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

✓ locating a key detail with support,
✓ identifying the meaning of common words or phrases with support using context,
✓ answering basic literal questions with support.

GRADE 5 – TIER 1 – NOVICE
A fifth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Novice Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Emerging level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

✓ identifying the meaning of common figurative language,
✓ identifying the meaning of familiar words, including those with multiple meanings, using context, prefixes, suffixes and roots,
✓ identifying one or more key details,
✓ answering basic literal questions.

GRADE 5 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT
A fifth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Proficient Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Novice Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

✓ identifying the author’s point of view,
✓ identifying one piece of evidence that shows how the author feels,
✓ identifying the main idea and one key detail to support the main idea,
✓ answering inferential questions with support,
✓ identifying how an individual or action affected an subsequent event in the text.

GRADE 5 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED
A fifth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Advanced Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Proficient Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by

✓ identifying one or more details that support an inference,
✓ identifying the author’s purpose,
✓ answering literal and inferential questions,
✓ identifying the theme or central message of a text,
✓ summarizing a text including appropriate sequencing of events,
✓ identifying details to compare characters, settings, or events.

As approved by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2019
GRADE 6 – TIER 1 – EMERGING

A sixth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Emerging Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ locating key details,
✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases with support using context,
✓ answering literal questions with support.

GRADE 6 – TIER 1 – NOVICE

A sixth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Novice Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Emerging level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying a main idea with support,
✓ identifying key details to support answer to a literal question,
✓ identifying the meaning of common vocabulary and multiple meaning words,
✓ answering literal questions (e.g., how, why) with support.

GRADE 6 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT

A sixth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Proficient Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Novice Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying the primary theme in a text,
✓ identifying one claim or an argument made by the author,
✓ identifying key details to answer inferential questions,
✓ identifying the meaning of words using root words and affixes or using context,
✓ answering inferential questions.

GRADE 6 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED

A sixth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Advanced Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Proficient Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ distinguishing whether a statement from the text is fact or opinion,
✓ summarizing a text by sequencing the major events,
✓ identifying the relationship (e.g., cause/effect) between events/characters in a text,
✓ identifying general similarities and differences in 2 texts from different genres
✓ locating words and phrases which highlight the author’s point-of-view,
✓ determining how a text feature supports text structure,
✓ determining how word choice changes the meaning of a text,
✓ identifying similarities and differences in texts by different authors.

As approved by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2019
GRADE 7 – TIER 1 – EMERGING
A seventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the Emerging Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying one explicitly stated theme or central message,
✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases with support using context,
✓ answering literal questions with support.

GRADE 7 – TIER 1 – NOVICE
A seventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the Novice Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Emerging level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying a claim or an argument made by the author,
✓ identifying a key detail,
✓ identifying the meaning of words and phrases including multiple meaning words using context, and/or prefixes, suffixes and root words,
✓ answering literal questions.

GRADE 7 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT
A seventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the Proficient Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Novice Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ using evidence from the text to identify the main and/or central idea,
✓ summarize a text relaying each major event in order,
✓ recognize the author’s point or view and an alternate point of view in the text,
✓ identifying how text features or sections influence text structure.

GRADE 7 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED
A seventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the Advanced Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Proficient Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying the meaning of figurative language,
✓ answering literal and inferential questions using details and evidence from the text,
✓ identifying relationships between story elements,
✓ identifying how 2 or more characters think or feel,
✓ identifying how interchanging 2 words impacts comprehension the text,
✓ identifying similarities in a historical account and a fictional account of the same time,

As approved by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2019
✓ identifying interactions between individuals, events or ideas that contribute to the plot of a story.
GRADE 8 – TIER 1 – EMERGING
An eighth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Emerging Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying a theme and a supporting detail with support,
✓ identifying the meaning of simple words or phrases using context or prefix/root words,
✓ answering literal or inferential questions with support.

GRADE 8 – TIER 1 – NOVICE
An eighth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Novice Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Emerging level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying the main/central idea or the claim/argument made by the author,
✓ identifying two key details to support summary of text,
✓ identifying the meaning of words and phrases, including those with multiple meanings, using context and/or prefixes, suffixes and roots,
✓ answering literal and inferential questions.

GRADE 8 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT
An eighth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Proficient Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Novice Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ determining if evidence supports a claim/argument made by the author,
✓ identifying up to three key details and summarize text,
✓ identifying the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language, including idioms metaphors or similes,
✓ identifying similarities in two texts about the same topic written in 2 different time frames,
✓ identifying how one character’s actions affect the reader’s perceptions,
✓ identifying the basic parts of a paragraph (introduction, details, conclusion).

GRADE 8 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED
An eighth grade Tier 1 student performing at the Advanced Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Proficient Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ determining the connection between 2 or more elements in the text,
✓ determining the author’s point of view and a competing point of view,
✓ determining how 2 characters in the story make the reader respond differently,

As approved by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2019
✓ identifying one discrepancy in information presented in 2 texts about the same topic.
GRADE 11 – TIER 1 – EMERGING
An eleventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a preliminary academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying the meaning of simple, multiple-meaning words and phrases,
✓ answering simple literal or inferential questions using key details or evidence.

GRADE 11 – TIER 1 – NOVICE
An eleventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying two main and/or central ideas in the text,
✓ identifying the most important details to summarize a text,
✓ identifying the meaning of common words or phrases using context and/or word parts.

GRADE 11 – TIER 1 – PROFICIENT
An eleventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying a claim/argument made by the author and supporting evidence,
✓ identifying the author’s point of view and citing examples and supporting evidence,
✓ identifying a summary statement about the text and citing evidence to support it,
✓ using informational material to answer an application question.

GRADE 11 – TIER 1 – ADVANCED
An eleventh grade Tier 1 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ categorizing evidence or examples that do or do not support an author’s point of view,
✓ defining vocabulary used in content area studies or in employment,
✓ identifying major ideas reflected in historical or political documents.

As approved by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2019
PASA –ELA (READING)
TIER 2
PERFORMANCE LEVEL
DESCRIPTORS
GRADE 3 – TIER 2 – EMERGING
A third grade Tier 2 student performing at the Emerging Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying one key idea explicitly stated in text,
✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases,
✓ answering basic literal questions with support.

GRADE 3 – TIER 2 – NOVICE
A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the Novice Level demonstrates a limited academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Emerging level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying the central message or main idea directly stated in the text,
✓ identifying the meaning of words using common prefixes, suffixes or roots,
✓ identifying the meaning of familiar phrases in context,
✓ answering more complex literal comprehension questions (e.g., why) with support.

GRADE 3 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT
A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the Proficient Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Novice Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ retelling events in order, including the first and last event,
✓ identifying one key detail to support an answer to a literal question,
✓ identifying a specific action of a character,
✓ identifying the literal and non-literal meaning of words, including those with multiple meanings using context,
✓ generating a question about the text,
✓ identifying similarities between 2 pieces of text by the same author or on the same topic.

GRADE 3 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED
A third grade Tier 1 student performing at the Advanced Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Proficient Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ ordering and retelling three or more events,
✓ identify two or more key details to support an answer to a question,
✓ identifying one specific point of view in the text,
✓ identifying evidence that supports a connection between 2 points in the text.

As approved by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2019
GRADE 4 – TIER 2 – EMERGING
A fourth grade Tier 2 student performing at the Emerging Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ identifying one or more key events in the text,
- ✓ identifying one detail to answer a question,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases using context or word parts,
- ✓ answering basic literal questions.

GRADE 4 – TIER 2 – NOVICE
A fourth grade Tier 2 student performing at the Novice Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Emerging level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ identifying a simplified central message or main idea,
- ✓ identifying the first or last event in a sequence,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases, both literal and non-literal with support,
- ✓ answering basic inferential questions.

GRADE 4 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT
A fourth grade Tier 2 student performing at the Proficient Level demonstrates an essential academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Novice Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ identifying one or more details to answer questions about setting, characters or events,
- ✓ identifying the main idea and key details that support the concept,
- ✓ summarizing the text by ordering and retelling basic events, including the first and last event,
- ✓ identifying the literal and non-literal meaning of less familiar words and phrases using context, and/or prefixes, suffixes and roots,
- ✓ identifying who the narrator of a text is,
- ✓ answering literal and inferential questions.

GRADE 4 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED
A fourth grade Tier 2 student performing at the Advanced Level demonstrates a consistent academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Proficient Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ identifying at least one piece of information to support answer to inferential question,

As approved by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2019
✓ identifying one or more details to answer questions about events, characters, procedures, ideas, steps or concepts,
✓ combining information from 2 pieces of texts on the same topic,
✓ determining narrator in 2 different stories.
GRADE 5 – TIER 2 – EMERGING

A fifth grade Tier 2 student performing at the Emerging Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying one or more key details in the text to support the answer to a question,
✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases using context,
✓ answering basic literal or inferential questions.

GRADE 5 – TIER 2 – NOVICE

A fifth grade Tier 2 student performing at the Novice Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Emerging level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying a simply stated theme and/or main idea,
✓ identifying the meaning of words and phrases, including those with multiple meanings, using context and/or prefixes, suffixes and roots,
✓ identifying the relationship between 2 people in a text,
✓ identifying text features to identify events, ideas or concepts.

GRADE 5 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT

A fifth grade Tier 2 student performing at the Proficient Level demonstrates an essential academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Novice Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying the author’s point of view with supporting evidence,
✓ determining the main idea and two or more supporting details,
✓ identifying the meaning of figurative language such as similes, metaphors or idioms,
✓ summarizing the text, including all major events in sequence.

GRADE 5 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED

A fifth grade Tier 2 student performing at the Advanced Level demonstrates a consistent academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Proficient Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ combining details from two different sources of text,,
✓ identifying similarities and differences in 2 texts of the same genre
✓ identifying similarities and differences in two points-of-view about an event or topic.
GRADE 6 – TIER 2 – EMERGING

A sixth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Emerging* Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ identifying key details to answer literal questions,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of simple words and phrases using context,
- ✓ answering literal questions.

GRADE 6 – TIER 2 – NOVICE

A sixth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Novice* Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Emerging* level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ identifying the main idea of a text,
- ✓ identifying key details to answer basic inferential questions,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of basic vocabulary and multiple meaning words
- ✓ answering basic inferential questions.

GRADE 6 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT

A sixth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Proficient* Level demonstrates an essential academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Novice* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ identifying an author’s claim or an argument using evidence from the text,
- ✓ summarizing a text, relaying key elements in order,
- ✓ identifying impact between events and characters or actions and events in a text,
- ✓ determining how specific words and phrases support an author’s feelings,
- ✓ identifying how text features impact text structure,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of figurative language such as common similes, metaphors or idioms,
- ✓ comparing similarities and differences in 2 authors’ approaches to one topic.

GRADE 6 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED

A sixth grade Tier 2 student performing at the *Advanced* Level demonstrates a consistent academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the *Proficient* Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ categorizing evidence as fact or opinion,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of more complex, less familiar figurative language,
- ✓ determining an author’s point of view and finding details that support this point of view.

As approved by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2019
✓ determining how word choice changes the feeling of the text,
✓ identifying specific similarities and differences in 2 texts from different genres.
GRADE 7 – TIER 2 – EMERGING
A seventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the Emerging Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying the basic theme or central message,
✓ identifying the meaning of common words and phrases using context,
✓ answering literal questions.

GRADE 7 – TIER 2 – NOVICE
A seventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the Novice Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Emerging level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying the primary claim/argument made by the author,
✓ identifying key details to summarize a text,
✓ identifying the meaning of common words and phrases using context and/or prefixes, suffixes and roots,
✓ identifying the author’s point of view and an alternate point of view in a text,
✓ identifying how 2 or more text features fit into text structure,
✓ answering basic inferential questions.

GRADE 7 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT
A seventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the Proficient Level demonstrates an essential academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Novice Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ identifying the meaning of multiple-meaning words and figurative language,
✓ identifying two central themes or main ideas,
✓ identifying similarities and differences in how 2 or more characters think or feel,
✓ identifying how word choice can impact comprehension,
✓ identifying how 2 interactions between individuals, events, or ideas, contribute to the plot.

GRADE 7 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED
A seventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the Advanced Level demonstrates a consistent academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Proficient Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
✓ answering literal and inferential questions and supporting choices by citing details and evidence from the text,
✓ identifying the relationship between multiple story elements,

As approved by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2019
✓ identifying similarities and differences in a fictional portrayal and a historical account of the same period,
✓ using context to infer meaning of an unknown word.
GRADE 8 – TIER 2 – EMERGING
An eighth grade Tier 2 student performing at the Emerging Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ determining the central message of a text and one piece of evidence to support it,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of words, including those with multiple meanings,
- ✓ locating one piece of evidence in the text to support answer to literal or inferential questions.

GRADE 8 – TIER 2 – NOVICE
An eighth grade Tier 2 student performing at the Novice Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Emerging level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ identifying a main/central idea or claim/argument made by the author using details from the text,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of words and phrases, including those with multiple meanings, using context and/or prefixes, suffixes and roots,
- ✓ identifying how different characters’ actions impact other characters and events,
- ✓ summarizing text with some details,
- ✓ citing evidence to answer literal and inferential questions.

GRADE 8 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT
An eighth grade Tier 2 student performing at the Proficient Level demonstrates an essential academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Novice Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ determining which evidence supports and does not support a claim/argument made by the author,
- ✓ identifying similarities and differences in a modern work of fiction and a traditional story addressing the same theme,
- ✓ determining how a character’s actions and attitude affect the reader’s perspective on the story,
- ✓ identifying the meaning of unfamiliar figurative language using context.

GRADE 8 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED
An eighth grade Tier 2 student performing at the Advanced Level demonstrates a consistent academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Proficient Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ identifying multiple points of view in the text,
- ✓ determining how word choice and the character’s actions make the reader feel,
- ✓ identifying conflicting information presented in 2 texts on the same topic,
- ✓ identifying the connections between each major event in the story.

As approved by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2019
GRADE 11 – TIER 2 – EMERGING
An eleventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the Emerging Level demonstrates a progressing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ identifying the meaning of unfamiliar and multiple meaning words and phrases,
- ✓ answering basic literal or inferential questions using key details and evidence.

GRADE 11 – TIER 2 – NOVICE
An eleventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the Novice Level demonstrates a developing academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Emerging level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ identifying the meaning of unfamiliar words or phrases using context or word parts,
- ✓ identifying a conclusion or summary statement,
- ✓ accessing informational material needed to answer a question.

GRADE 11 – TIER 2 – PROFICIENT
An eleventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the Proficient Level demonstrates an essential academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Novice Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ identifying the author’s claim/argument and evidence that does and does not support it,
- ✓ defining domain specific or academic vocabulary,
- ✓ using informational material to generate plausible answers to questions.

GRADE 11 – TIER 2 – ADVANCED
An eleventh grade Tier 2 student performing at the Advanced Level demonstrates a consistent academic awareness of the knowledge, skills, and processes outlined by the Pennsylvania Alternate Eligible Content.

In addition to the skills demonstrated by students performing at the Proficient Level, students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by
- ✓ identifying two or more central ideas using key details,
- ✓ breaking unfamiliar vocabulary into parts to determine meaning
- ✓ identifying similarities and differences in a multimedia version and a written story,
- ✓ determining why events or ideas in a story are linked,
- ✓ describe major themes reflected in documents of historical or political significance.