



# **Achievement Level Descriptors for Algebra I**

**Based on the Georgia Standards of Excellence and Effective Beginning with Winter 2015 End-of-Course Administration**

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### Achievement Levels and Achievement Level Descriptors

With the implementation of the Georgia Milestones Assessment System, Georgia educators have developed four achievement levels to describe student mastery and command of the knowledge and skills outlined in Georgia's content standards. Most students have at least some knowledge of the content described in the content standards; however, achievement levels succinctly describe how much mastery a student has. Achievement levels give meaning and context to scale scores by describing the knowledge and skills students must demonstrate to achieve each level.

The four achievement levels on Georgia Milestones are *Beginning Learner*, *Developing Learner*, *Proficient Learner*, and *Distinguished Learner*. The general meaning of each of the four levels is provided below:

**Beginning Learners do not yet demonstrate proficiency** in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students **need substantial academic support** to be prepared for the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.

**Developing Learners demonstrate partial proficiency** in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students **need additional academic support** to ensure success in the next grade level or course and to be on track for college and career readiness.

**Proficient Learners demonstrate proficiency** in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students **are prepared** for the next grade level or course and are on track for college and career readiness.

**Distinguished Learners demonstrate advanced proficiency** in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students **are well prepared** for the next grade level or course and are well prepared for college and career readiness.

More detailed and content-specific concepts and skills are provided for each grade, content area, and course in the **Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)**. ALDs are narrative descriptions of the knowledge and skills expected at each of the four achievement levels and were developed for each grade level, content area, and course by committees of Georgia educators in March 2015 and July 2015. The ALDs are based on the state-adopted content standards.

**ALDs show a progression of knowledge and skills** for which students must demonstrate competency across the achievement levels. It is important to understand that a student should demonstrate mastery of the knowledge and skills within his/her achievement level *as well as all content and skills in any achievement levels that precede his/her own, if any*. For example, a Proficient Learner should also possess the knowledge and skills of a Developing Learner *and* a Beginning Learner.

ALD	Standard	Beginning Learner	Developing Learner	Proficient Learner	Distinguished Learner
<b>Policy</b>		<b>Beginning Learners do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills</b> necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students need substantial academic support to be prepared for the next grade level or course and to be on track for <i>college and career readiness</i> .	<b>Developing Learners demonstrate partial proficiency in the knowledge and skills</b> necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students need additional academic support to ensure success in the next grade level or course and to be on track for <i>college and career readiness</i> .	<b>Proficient Learners demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills</b> necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students are prepared for the next grade level or course and are on track for <i>college and career readiness</i> .	<b>Distinguished Learners demonstrate advanced proficiency in the knowledge and skills</b> necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students are well prepared for the next grade level or course and are well prepared for <i>college and career readiness</i> .
<b>Range</b>		A student who achieves at the <b>Beginning Learner</b> level demonstrates minimal command of the grade-level standards.	A student who achieves at the <b>Developing Learner</b> level demonstrates partial command of the grade-level standards.	A student who achieves at the <b>Proficient Learner</b> level demonstrates proficiency of the grade-level standards.	A student who achieves at the <b>Distinguished Learner</b> level demonstrates advanced proficiency of the grade-level standards.
	N.Q.1 N.Q.2 N.Q.3	Uses numbers and units to solve problems.	Reasons with numbers and units to solve problems.	Reasons quantitatively and uses units to solve problems.	Reasons analytically and quantitatively and interprets, represents, and uses units to solve problems.
	N.RN.2 N.RN.3	Identifies rational and irrational numbers.	Uses rational and irrational numbers and rewrites expressions involving square roots.	Interprets and uses properties of rational and irrational numbers and rewrites expressions involving square roots.	Interprets, explains, and uses properties of rational and irrational numbers and rewrites expressions involving square roots.

ALD	Standard	Beginning Learner	Developing Learner	Proficient Learner	Distinguished Learner
	A.SSE.1 A.SSE.2 A.SSE.3 A.APR.1 A.CED.1 A.CED.2 A.CED.3 A.CED.4 A.REI.1 A.REI.3 A.REI.4 A.REI.5 A.REI.6 A.REI.10 A.REI.11 A.REI.12	Identifies equations that describe numbers and solves equations in one variable.	Understands the structure of expressions, identifies equations that describe numbers or relationships, creates equations that describe relationships, understands solving equations as a process of reasoning, and solves and graphs systems of equations.	Interprets the structure of expressions and writes expressions in equivalent forms to solve problems, performs arithmetic operations on polynomials, creates equations that describe numbers or relationships, understands solving equations as a process of reasoning and explains the reasoning, and solves and graphs equations and inequalities with one or two variables and systems of equations with two variables.	Interprets and analyzes the structure of expressions and represents and writes expressions in equivalent forms to solve problems; understands and uses arithmetic operations on polynomials; creates and represents equations that describe numbers and relationships; understands solving equations as a process of reasoning and explains the reasoning; and solves and graphs multistep equations and inequalities with one or two variables and systems of equations with two variables, in context.
	F.IF.1 F.IF.2 F.IF.3 F.IF.4 F.IF.5 F.IF.6 F.IF.7 F.IF.9	Identifies and defines a function.	Understands the concept of a function and uses function notation.	Interprets functions by understanding the concept of a function and uses function notation, interprets functions that arise in applications in terms of the context, and analyzes functions using different representations.	Interprets and analyzes functions by understanding the concept of a function, recognizes and uses contextual forms of function notation, interprets functions that arise in applications in terms of contexts, and analyzes functions using multiple representations.
	F.BF.1 F.BF.2 F.BF.3	N/A	Builds functions from models of a relationship between two sets of data.	Builds functions that model a relationship between two quantities and builds functions from existing functions.	Builds functions that model a relationship between two quantities or contexts and builds and tests functions from existing functions.

ALD	Standard	Beginning Learner	Developing Learner	Proficient Learner	Distinguished Learner
	F.LE.1 F.LE.2 F.LE.3 F.LE.5	N/A	Compares linear and exponential models.	Constructs and compares linear and exponential models and solves problems and interprets expressions for functions in terms of the situation they model.	Constructs, compares, and analyzes linear and exponential models and solves complex problems and represents, interprets, and translates expressions for functions in terms of the situation they model.
	S.ID.1 S.ID.2 S.ID.3 S.ID.5 S.ID.6 S.ID.7 S.ID.8 S.ID.9	Represents data on a single count or measurement variable.	Represents and interprets data on a single count or measurement variable.	Summarizes, represents, and interprets data on a single count or measurement variable; summarizes, represents, and interprets data on two categorical and quantitative variables; and interprets linear models.	Summarizes, represents, and interprets data on single count and measurement variables; summarizes, represents, and interprets data on two categorical and quantitative variables; and interprets and analyzes linear models.