



# ETS Performance Assessment for School Leaders (PASL)

## Task Requirements

### **Task 1: Problem Solving in the Field**

**In this task, you will demonstrate your ability to address and resolve a significant problem/challenge in your school that influences instructional practice and student learning.**

### Standards

Each of the guiding prompts to which you will be responding is directly aligned to the standards upon which this task was developed. To read your specific state or national standards before beginning your work, access them on the [Performance Assessment for School Leaders website](#).



## What Do You Have to Do for This Task?

**For this task, you must submit the following evidence.**

1. Written Commentary of a maximum of **25,500 characters** (equivalent to **eight pages** typed) that
  - responds to all guiding prompts;
  - references your artifacts to support your written evidence; and
  - describes, analyzes, and reflects on the evidence.
2. Artifacts

The required artifacts for this task:

Artifact	Maximum Number of Pages	Textbox Location
Representative page of longitudinal data	1	1.1.1
Representative page of the research materials and resources you used to inform the development of the plan	1	1.2.1
Representative pages of the plan*	2	1.2.2
Representative page of your timeline and steps	1	1.2.2
Representative page of your communication with stakeholders	1	1.3.1
Representative page of an artifact of your choice that reflects any adjustments and/or results related to the implementation of the plan (e.g., meeting notes; e-mails to stakeholders)	1	1.3.2
Representative page of student work	1	1.3.2

\*A sample template is provided, but candidates can submit a form of their own.



### **How to Submit Your Evidence**

- Upload your artifacts into your Library of Artifacts.
- Refer to the artifacts in your Written Commentary.
- Link the artifacts to your Written Commentary within the appropriate textbox.

### **How to Compose Your Written Commentary**

This task has four steps that are scored, each with guiding prompts to help you provide evidence that supports your response. Your response needs to address **all parts** of each of the guiding prompts.

- Step 1: Identifying a Problem/Challenge
- Step 2: Researching and Developing a Plan
- Step 3: Implementing the Plan
- Step 4: Reflecting on the Plan and the Resolution

**Please read the entire task before responding to any guiding prompts.** Use the guiding prompts to compose your response. Remember to include any required artifacts.



## Contextual Information

### Overview

Many factors can affect teaching and learning; these could include the community, the school district, and/or individual school/classroom/student factors.

The information you gather about your learning environment will help provide perspective to the rater who will be scoring your submission.

**This part of your submission will not be scored**, but the information you include could have implications regarding your professional choices.

Your response must be limited to **1,500 characters** (equivalent to **one-half page** typed). No artifacts can be attached to the Contextual Information textbox.

- a. Describe your school district. Include relevant information about the ethnic, social, economic, cultural, and geographic factors affecting the district environment.
- b. Describe your school. Include relevant information about the ethnic, social, economic, cultural, and geographic factors affecting the school environment that are different from those described in your response to Guiding Prompt A.
- c. Provide an overview of your school's faculty. Include relevant information such as the career stages, teaching styles, and diversity of the staff, and describe leadership opportunities.

**Type your response in the textbox below.**



## Step 1: Identifying a Problem/Challenge

This step allows you to demonstrate your ability to identify a significant problem/challenge.

### Activity

In collaboration with your supervising building administrator, identify one significant problem/challenge connected to the school and/or school community and

- describe the impact that the problem/challenge has on instructional practice and student learning;
- use and explain how longitudinal data support your choice of the problem/challenge; and
- describe the expected result if the problem/challenge is addressed and how the change will affect instructional practice and student learning.

Then respond to the guiding prompts below.

### Textbox 1.1.1 Identifying the Problem

#### Guiding Prompts

- a. Describe the significant problem/challenge you selected. What is the impact that the problem/challenge has on instructional practice and student learning? Provide examples to demonstrate the impact of the problem/challenge.
- b. What longitudinal data did you collect? Why are the data appropriate? How do the data support your choice of a significant problem/challenge?
- c. What result do you anticipate if the problem/challenge is addressed? How will the result(s) impact instructional practice and student learning?

Required artifact for this textbox:

- A representative page of longitudinal data (maximum of **one page**)

**Type your response in the textbox below.**



## Step 2: Researching and Developing a Plan

This step allows you to demonstrate your ability to develop a plan to address a significant problem/challenge.

### Activity

Develop a plan that

- identifies research, school/district resources, and community/cultural influences to support the identification of a problem/challenge;
- includes specific goals and a timeline with specific steps that delineate key colleagues' involvement in the development of the plan;
- describes communication strategies to reach various audiences; and
- identifies a method to measure the plan's effect on instructional practice and student learning.

Then respond to the guiding prompts below.

### Textbox 1.2.1 Researching the Plan

#### Guiding Prompts

- a. What significant research did you conduct and/or consult? How did it influence the development of the plan?
- b. What school and/or district resources did you use? Explain how the resources affected the development of the plan.
- c. What school/community/cultural influences affected the development of the plan? How did they influence the development of the plan?

Required artifact for this textbox:

- A representative page of research materials and resources you used to inform the development of the plan (maximum of **one page**)

**Type your response in the textbox below.**



## Textbox 1.2.2 Developing the Plan

### Guiding Prompts

- a. Describe the plan you developed. What is the resolution of the problem/challenge that you hope to achieve, and how will the plan help achieve it? Provide examples to support your conclusion.
- b. What is the timeline for **each** step of the plan? Provide a rationale for your choices regarding the timeline and steps.
- c. Whom did you include to help develop the plan? Why did you select them, and what roles did they play in the development of the plan?
- d. What strategies did you use to communicate the plan to various audiences? Provide a rationale for your choice of strategies.
- e. How do you intend to assess the results of the plan and its impact on instructional practice and student learning? Identify examples of student work that demonstrate the impact on student learning resulting from implementation of the plan. Provide a rationale for your choice of student work.

Required artifacts for this textbox:

- Representative pages of the plan (maximum of **two pages**)
- A representative page of your timeline and steps (maximum of **one page**)

**Type your response in the textbox below.**



## Step 3: Implementing the Plan

This step allows you to demonstrate your ability to implement and then analyze the effectiveness of the plan.

### Activity

Describe and analyze the implementation of the plan by

- describing the actions you took to support the plan and your colleagues and the communication strategies you used to implement the plan;
- explaining the monitoring process used to assess the implementation of the plan, including any adjustments made to the plan; and
- illustrating how implementation of the plan addressed the problem/challenge and how the plan specifically improved instructional practice and student learning.

Then respond to the guiding prompts below.

### Textbox 1.3.1 Strategies

#### Guiding Prompts

- a. What actions did you take to support the implementation of the plan? Provide examples.
- b. Whom did you include in the implementation? Why and how did you include them?
- c. What communication strategies did you use with these individuals, and why? What impact did these strategies have on the implementation of the plan?

Required artifact for this textbox:

- A representative page of your communication with stakeholders (maximum of **one page**)

**Type your response in the textbox below.**





### Textbox 1.3.2 Analysis

#### Guiding Prompts

- a. What criteria and methods did you use to monitor the implementation of the plan? Why did you choose them?
- b. What adjustments did you make during the implementation of the plan? Provide a rationale for your adjustments.
- c. How effective was the implementation of the plan in addressing the problem/challenge? Provide specific examples to support your conclusion.
- d. How did the implementation of the plan impact both instructional practice and student learning? Provide examples from the student work sample to support your conclusion.

Required artifacts for this textbox:

- A representative page of an artifact that reflects adjustments and/or results (maximum of **one page**)
- A representative page of student work (maximum of **one page**)

**Type your response in the textbox below.**



## Step 4: Reflecting on the Plan and the Resolution

This step allows you to demonstrate your ability to reflect on the effectiveness of the plan.

### Activity

Reflect on the effectiveness of the plan by

- describing any changes you would make to the plan based on the resolution;
- explaining how this process influenced your approach to future problem-solving situations; and
- reflecting on the effectiveness of the resolution of the plan.

Then respond to the guiding prompts below.

### Textbox 1.4.1 Reflecting on the Plan and the Resolution

#### Guiding Prompts

- a. Based on the quality of the resolution, what changes would you make to the development and implementation process if you were to do this again?
- b. What lessons have you learned from the entire process of developing and implementing the plan?
- c. How has what you have learned influenced the way you will approach future problem-solving tasks?

Provide examples to support all your conclusions.

**Type your response in the textbox below.**