

Colorado Alternate Grade 8 Science Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)

Students demonstrate science concepts and skills aligned to the Grade Level Expectations and Extended Evidence Outcomes contained in the Colorado Academic Standards.

With appropriate support, Advanced students can typically:

- Match an object to itself before and after a physical or chemical change
- Compare and contrast different water or sound waves using wave characteristics
- Determine if different materials can absorb, reflect, or refract light
- Predict the effect of a human activity on a local ecosystem
- Identify why the appearances of the Sun and the moon change in the sky, including phases of the moon and eclipses

With appropriate support, At Target students can typically:

- Determine an object's directionality and compare the speeds of moving objects
- Determine sources for light and heat
- Determine if an object has undergone a physical or chemical change
- Identify sources of waves
- Identify human activities that have an effect on local ecosystems
- Identify traits that are passed down from parent to child
- Compare safe and unsafe practices during severe weather conditions
- Use models and simulations to explore the motions of Earth, the moon, and the Sun

With appropriate support, Approaching Target students can typically:

- Recognize that the speed and direction of a force can change moving objects
- Compare different forms of energy
- Label chemical and physical changes
- Label different types of waves
- Recognize the effect of human activity on the local ecosystem
- Identify similarities and differences in parents and children
- Identify severe weather conditions and follow a simple action plan for severe weather
- Recognize facts and fiction in regards to space exploration

With appropriate support, Emerging students can typically:

- Identify objects changing speed while moving
- Recognize that heat, light, and electricity are forms of energy
- Identify different types of waves
- Recognize stages of human aging
- Recognize different weather conditions
- Identify different climates
- Identify scientific tools related to weather and space exploration
- Acknowledge that celestial objects have patterns of movement

An Inconclusive designation is given to students who did not respond to any items on the assessment.