

Colorado Alternate High School 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:

- Predict the direction or relative speed of an object as a result of an unbalanced force
- Group items based on physical properties
- Identify products in a chemical reaction
- Determine types of energy associated with common objects
- Compare characteristics of different types of animals
- Recognize how cells group together and how body systems work together
- Recognize how organism populations have adapted to change
- Identify the factors that affect climate

With appropriate support, At Target students can typically:

- Compare objects and the forces required to move them
- Identify item characteristics as physical or chemical
- Compare elements and compounds
- Identify the chemical reaction in an object that causes an observable change
- Identify an element present in a compound
- Distinguish between different types of energy transformations
- Compare positive and negative effects of human activities on ecosystems
- Compare healthy and unhealthy lifestyle choices
- Distinguish between inherited traits and learned behaviors
- Recognize how the earth has changed over time

With appropriate support, Approaching Target students can typically:

- Identify the fastest object in a group
- Use ratios to determine a type of physical change in a mixture
- Identify chemical reactions in household items and common organisms
- Identify sources of energy
- Identify similarities and differences in parents and children
- List basic needs for space travel
- Identify severe weather conditions and follow a simple action plan for severe weather

With appropriate support, Emerging students can typically:

- Understand that force is required to move
- Identify the result of a chemical reaction
- Identify parts of plant and animal cells
- Recognize how ecosystems are affected by human activities
- Identify different climates
- Match scientific tools to their use in weather and space exploration

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