

Start Strong Science Reporting Performance Level Descriptor

MS Less Support Needed Performance Descriptor

Students at this level demonstrated appropriate understanding of the Middle School scientific concepts and practices in the three tested content domains: Earth & Space, Life, and Physical Science.

Students at this level are typically able to:

- Analyze/use large graphical displays of data.
- Explain or evaluate mathematical concepts/representations.
- Plan and/or evaluate an investigation, identifying variables and/or controls and/or the amount of data needed.
- Ask questions that challenge the interpretation of data sets.
- Describe design problems.
- Develop or modify models to predict/describe phenomena and/or generate data.
- Integrate complex scientific information from various sources.
- Critique, compare and/or identify multiple pieces of evidence to support or refute an explanation, model, or solution, and evaluate conclusions.

Students at this level will likely need minimal support to learn more advanced concepts and be able to:

- Construct graphical displays of data.
- Explain when to use qualitative or quantitative data.
- Create algorithms.
- Plan and refine or revise an investigation, identifying variables and controls and/or how much data is needed, and explaining how it improves accuracy.
- Analyze and/or evaluate questions that challenge the interpretation of data sets.
- Evaluate design problems.
- Develop, compare, or evaluate complex models that predict and/or describe phenomena and/or show relationships among variables.
- Integrate complex quantitative information with other media.
- Critique competing arguments and/or procedures and analyze empirical evidence to construct written arguments.