

Start Strong Science Reporting Performance Level Descriptor

MS Some Support Needed Performance Descriptor

Students at this level demonstrated partial 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:

- Interpret and use graphical displays, data sets, and mathematical representations to clarify relationships, and identify limitations and areas for improvement.
- Conduct an investigation to provide data to serve as evidence for scientific questions.
- Identify questions that challenge interpretations of data sets.
- Use a model to show relationships between variables, predict/describe a phenomenon, and generate data.
- Use central ideas and assess credibility of quantitative scientific information from a variety of sources, using this to identify complex evidence that supports or refutes an explanation or argument.

Students at this level will likely need some support to learn more advanced concepts and be 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 how much data is 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.