

Start Strong Science Reporting Performance Level Descriptor

MS Strong Support Needed Performance Descriptor

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

To a limited degree, students at this level are typically able to:

- Identify relationships from graphical displays, data sets, and mathematical representations.
- Plan an investigation and identify tools and methods for data collection.
- Identify questions that arise from observations that can be investigated with constraints and can challenge an argument.
- Identify a model that shows the relationship between variables and that predicts or describes phenomena.
- Identify central ideas and assess credibility of qualitative scientific information from various sources, including identifying simple evidence that supports or refutes an explanation or argument.

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

- Interpret and use graphical displays, data sets, and mathematical representations to clarify relationships, while identifying 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.