



# State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness Alternate (STAAR™ Alternate) Performance Level Descriptors Biology

## Performance Level Descriptors

### Level III: Accomplished Academic Performance

#### Students at Complexity Level 3 can:

- determine that cells contribute to various inherited traits
- determine the functions of major human body systems
- determine how a variety of organisms benefit from a mutualistic relationship

#### Students at Complexity Level 2 can:

- identify the functions that specialized cells perform
- sort a variety of characteristics as learned behaviors or inherited traits
- identify human body needs that are affected by different types of exercise

### Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance

#### Students at Complexity Level 3 can:

- determine how physical structures can vary among different organisms
- justify why cell structure varies among plant parts
- generate examples of inherited traits and learned behaviors
- determine that cells contribute to an inherited trait
- classify and compare organisms across kingdoms
- determine the function of a major human body system
- determine how a specific organism benefits from a mutualistic relationship

#### Students at Complexity Level 2 can:

- identify a need of an animal that is met through a physical or behavioral characteristic
- recognize that plant parts have different cells for specific functions
- sort characteristics as learned behaviors or inherited traits

**Students at Complexity Level 2 can: (continued)**

- identify that inherited traits come from similar parent cells
- match plant parts to the function they serve in meeting the plant's needs
- identify human body needs that are affected by a type of exercise
- identify an animal and its food source within a given environment

**Students at Complexity Level 1 can:**

- respond to differences in physical characteristics among organisms
- acknowledge the growth of a plant
- participate in pairing inherited traits from parent to offspring
- participate in pairing two different plants with their corresponding parts
- respond to a person getting his or her needs met
- participate in pairing an animal with its food source

**Level I: Developing Academic Performance**

**Students at Complexity Level 3 can:**

- define an inherited trait and a learned behavior
- locate major human body systems
- generate a list of organisms within an environment
- define a mutualistic relationship

**Students at Complexity Level 2 can:**

- recognize that living things are made of cells
- identify inherited traits
- identify organs within the human body
- recognize that living things must have a food source within the environment

**Students at Complexity Level 1 can:**

- acknowledge the physical characteristics of an organism
- acknowledge a parent and its offspring
- participate in meeting an organism's needs