



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness Alternate (STAAR™ Alternate) Performance Level Descriptors Grade 8 Science

Performance Level Descriptors

Level III: Accomplished Academic Performance

Students at Complexity Level 3 can:

- draw conclusions based on physical properties of matter using a variety of objects
- describe energy transformations from the original form to the resulting forms
- compare the effects of weather patterns for different locations

Students at Complexity Level 2 can:

- sort a variety of objects according to different physical properties
- identify forms of energy that were transformed into other forms of energy
- identify weather patterns using different types of data
- identify factors in different environments that affect growth and behavior of living things

Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance

Students at Complexity Level 3 can:

- draw conclusions based on physical properties of matter
- investigate the point at which matter changes from one state to another
- determine the effects of friction
- describe an energy transformation from its original form to its resulting forms
- compare the effects of weather patterns
- determine the interaction of objects in the sky
- justify why specific plants and animals are supported in a given environment

Students at Complexity Level 2 can:

- identify physical properties that cause objects to sink or float
- sort objects according to physical properties

Students at Complexity Level 2 can: (continued)

- identify characteristics that allow less force to be applied to move an object
- identify the original form of energy that was transformed into other forms of energy
- identify a weather pattern based on data
- identify the pattern for the phases of the moon
- identify how a physical characteristic helps an animal
- identify factors in one environment that affect growth and behavior of living things

Students at Complexity Level 1 can:

- respond to objects that float
- participate in grouping objects with same and different properties
- experience moving objects using various levels of force
- experience different forms of energy
- experience changes in weather
- experience the characteristics of the sun
- experience how an animal characteristic is used in the animal's environment
- participate in sorting living and non-living things

Level I: Developing Academic Performance

Students at Complexity Level 3 can:

- conduct an investigation to classify objects based on physical properties
- determine that energy can be transformed
- generate characteristics of the sun, moon, and Earth
- describe characteristics of different environments

Students at Complexity Level 2 can:

- identify the common physical property for a group of objects
- identify different forms of energy
- identify different weather conditions

Students at Complexity Level 1 can:

- participate in grouping objects with the same properties
- experience a form of energy
- experience a weather condition
- acknowledge a non-living thing