

Science Standards, Instruction, and Assessment Resources

Science Standards and Instruction Resources

April 2025

- You can access the current version of our Academic Standards in Science by clicking the first two links on our [Science Standards Implementation page](#).
- MDE offers free, online science courses intended for science teachers of all grade levels. These courses support science standards implementation and are intended to be completed as part of a professional learning community. Visit our [Online Science Courses from the Minnesota Department of Education](#) page to register.
- [A Framework for K-12 Science Education](#) is the foundational document used to develop the 2019 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science. The [appendices](#) and [supporting resources](#) for the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) are also helpful resources for implementing the Minnesota Science Standards.

Science Assessment Resources

- [Testing 1,2,3 Website](#) contains many resources about assessment, data and reporting.
- You can view sample items from the MCA-IV using the [Minnesota Questions Tool](#).
- More information about the test structure of the MCA IV for science is available in our [Science MCA-IV Test Specifications](#) document. Or go to [MDE home page](#) > Statewide Testing > Test Specifications
- Pearson Access Next
 - [Student Readiness Tool](#) Information about test navigation, item types (including constructed response and simulations) and tools available on the MCA. Select 5th Grade, 8th Grade, HS Science, and Test Supports and Accommodations: All Grades. There is a lot here, so take time to look around.
 - [Glossary and Translated word list](#) (Found on Student Readiness Tool page, under “Preparing for Testing” dropdown) IMPORTANT: Please refer to the *Guidance for Science Translated and Glossed Word List* found here.
- [Performance Level Descriptors](#) describe the knowledge and skills students demonstrate at different performance levels of the Science MCA-IV.

Resources and Organizations for Additional Support

- The [Contextus Task Library](#) is a collection of assessment tasks organized by the PEs of the NGSS.
- The [Minnesota Science Teachers Association](#) is a community of science educators and professionals in all content areas committed to improving science education in Minnesota. They also host [free virtual professional development](#) and teaching tools for members.
- The [Minnesota Earth Science Teachers Association](#) is a community of Earth science educators and professionals in Minnesota passionate about Earth Science education and supporting collaboration among educators.