



IOWA SCIENCE
PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS



General Performance Level Descriptors

The General Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) provide descriptions of what students at each performance level *know* and what they *are able to do*. Taken together with Grade- and Content-specific PLDs and threshold scores, they convey the meaning of the ISASP results.

Advanced	Students performing at the Advanced level demonstrate thorough competency over the knowledge, skills, and abilities that meet the requirements for their grade level associated with academic readiness for college and careers in the subject area.
Proficient	Students performing at the Proficient level demonstrate adequate competency over the knowledge, skills, and abilities that meet the requirements for their grade level associated with academic readiness for college and careers in the subject area.
Not-Yet-Proficient	Students performing at the not-yet-proficient level have not yet demonstrated the knowledge and skills to be classified as Proficient.

Using the Performance Level Descriptors

The Iowa Science Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) outline a range of skills a Proficient or Advanced student could demonstrate. The descriptors are representative of Proficient and Advanced skills at a given grade but are not meant as an exhaustive list of all possible content that could be assessed on an ISASP Science form.

Descriptors in the Advanced category include skills a student could demonstrate that go beyond the scope of Proficiency. The categories are cumulative in that an Advanced student should consistently demonstrate the skills within the Proficient category as well as one or more of the skills within the Advanced category.

Iowa Science PLDs – Grade 5

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	PROFICIENT	ADVANCED
	<i>ISASP Science</i> <i>Scale Score Range: 452 to 541</i>	<i>ISASP Science</i> <i>Scale Score Range: 542 to 590</i>
	<p>A student performing at the Proficient performance level for grade 5 science uses the grade appropriate Science and Engineering Practices and Cross Cutting Concepts within life, physical, and earth and space science to demonstrate a descriptive understanding as reflected in the grades 3, 4, and 5 Iowa Core Science Standards. The student communicates core ideas and concepts within a phenomenon (an observable and/or measurable feature of the natural world) using essential practices of science.</p>	<p>A student performing at the Advanced performance level for grade 5 science uses the grade appropriate Science and Engineering Practices and Cross Cutting Concepts within life, physical, and earth and space science to demonstrate an analytical understanding as reflected in the grades 3, 4, and 5 Iowa Core Science Standards. The student communicates core ideas and concepts across phenomena (observable and/or measurable features of the natural world) using complex practices of science.</p>

Iowa Science PLDs – Grade 8

	PROFICIENT	ADVANCED
	<i>ISASP Science</i> <i>Scale Score Range: 508 to 608</i>	<i>ISASP Science</i> <i>Scale Score Range: 609 to 720</i>
	<p>A student performing at the Proficient performance level for grade 8 science uses the grade appropriate Science and Engineering Practices and Cross Cutting Concepts within life, physical, and earth and space science to demonstrate a descriptive understanding as reflected in the grades 6, 7, and 8 Iowa Core Science Standards. The student communicates core ideas and concepts within a phenomenon (an observable and/or measurable feature of the natural world) using essential practices of science.</p>	<p>A student performing at the Advanced performance level for grade 8 science uses the grade appropriate Science and Engineering Practices and Cross Cutting Concepts within life, physical, and earth and space science to demonstrate an analytical understanding as reflected in the grades 6, 7, and 8 Iowa Core Science Standards. The student communicates core ideas and concepts across phenomena (observable and/or measurable features of the natural world) using complex practices of science.</p>

Iowa Science PLDs – Grade 10

	PROFICIENT	ADVANCED
	<i>ISASP Science</i> <i>Scale Score Range: 545 to 655</i>	<i>ISASP Science</i> <i>Scale Score Range: 656 to 780</i>
	<p>A student performing at the Proficient performance level for grade 10 science uses the grade appropriate Science and Engineering Practices and Cross Cutting Concepts within life, physical, and earth and space science to demonstrate a descriptive understanding as reflected in the High School Iowa Core Science Standards. The student communicates core ideas and concepts within a phenomenon (an observable and/or measurable feature of the natural world) using essential practices of science.</p>	<p>A student performing at the Advanced performance level for grade 10 science uses the grade appropriate Science and Engineering Practices and Cross Cutting Concepts within life, physical, and earth and space science to demonstrate an analytical understanding as reflected in the High School Iowa Core Science Standards. The student communicates core ideas and concepts across phenomena (observable and/or measurable features of the natural world) using complex practices of science.</p>