# New York State Testing Program P-12 Science Learning Standards

**Performance Level Descriptions** 

Life Science: Biology

Fall 2023



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

Performance level descriptions (PLDs) help communicate to students, families, educators, and the public the specific knowledge and skills expected of students in order for them to demonstrate proficiency in each Learning Standard for Science. The PLDs serve several purposes in classroom instruction and assessment. They are the foundation of rich discussion around what students need to do to perform at higher levels, and they explain the progression of learning within a subject area. PLDs are also crucial in explaining student performance on the New York State (NYS) assessments since they make a connection between the scale score, the performance level (e.g., meets the expectation of the learning standards) and specific knowledge and skills typically demonstrated by students achieving at that level.

#### Policy Definitions of Performance Levels

For each subject area, students perform along a continuum of the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the demands of the Learning Standards for Science. There are students who meet the expectations of the standards with distinction, students who fully meet the expectations, students who minimally meet the expectations, students who partially meet the expectations, and students who do not demonstrate sufficient knowledge or skills required for any performance level. New York State assessments are designed to classify student performance into one of five levels based on the knowledge and skills the student has demonstrated. These performance levels for the Regents level science test are defined as:

#### NYS Level 5

Students performing at this level meet the expectations of the Science Learning Standards with distinction for Life Science: Biology.

#### NYS Level 4

Students performing at this level fully meet the expectations of the Science Learning Standards for Life Science: Biology. They are likely prepared to succeed in the next level of coursework.

#### NYS Level 3

Students performing at this level minimally meet the expectations of the Science Learning Standards for Life Science: Biology. They meet the content area requirements for a Regents diploma but may need additional support to succeed in the next level of coursework.

#### NYS Level 2

Students performing at this level partially meet the expectations of the Science Learning Standards for Life Science: Biology. Students with disabilities performing at this level meet the content area requirements for a local diploma but may need additional support to succeed in the next level of coursework.

#### NYS Level 1

Students performing at this level demonstrate knowledge, skills and practices embodied by the Science Learning Standards for Life Science: Biology below that of a Level 2.

#### How were the PLDs developed?

Following research-based best practice for the development of PLDs, the number of performance levels and their definitions were specified prior to the articulation of the full descriptions. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) convened a group of NYS science educators to develop the initial draft PLDs for Life Science: Biology. In developing PLDs, participants considered policy definitions of the performance levels and the knowledge and skill expectations for each grade level in the Science Learning Standards. Once they established the appropriate knowledge and skills from a particular standard for NYS Level 4 (fully meet), panelists worked together to parse the knowledge and skills across the other performance levels in such a way that the progression of the knowledge and skills was clearly seen moving from Level 1 to Level 5. This process was repeated for all of the standards within the course. The draft PLDs then went through additional rounds of review and edits from a number of NYS-certified educators, content specialists, and assessment experts under NYSED supervision.

#### How can the PLDs be used in Instruction?

The PLDS, which differentiate and stratify the overall continuum of knowledge and skills defined by the Learning Standards into five distinct levels of learning should be used as guidance by educators. NYSED encourages the use of the PLDs for a variety of purposes, including differentiating instruction to maximize individual student outcomes, creating formative classroom assessments and rubrics to help identify target performance levels for individuals or groups of students, and tracking student growth along the proficiency continuum as described by the PLDs. The knowledge and skills shown in the PLDs describe typical performance and progression. However, the order in which students will demonstrate the knowledge and skills within and between performance levels may be staggered (i.e., a student who predominantly demonstrates Level 3 knowledge and skills may simultaneously demonstrate certain knowledge and skills indicative of Level 4). Although the ranges of skills expected of students at each performance level are detailed in the PLDs, specific science concepts will be elaborated and expanded as those skills are applied in the science classroom. Because the Learning Standards for science encompass the Science and Engineering Practices (SEP), Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI), and Crosscutting Concepts (CCC), each of them must be examined in depth. The integration of these three dimensions provides students with a context for the content of science, a sense of how science knowledge is acquired and understood, and a sense of how the sciences are connected through concepts that have universal meaning across the disciplines.

#### How are the PLDs used in Assessment?

PLDs are essential in setting performance standards (i.e., "cut scores") for New York State assessments. Standard setting panelists use PLDs to determine the expectations for students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to *just barely* attain a Level 2, Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5 on the assessment. This knowledge and these skills drive discussions that influence the panelists as they recommend the cut scores on the assessment. PLDs are also used in question development. Question writers are assigned to write questions that draw on the specific knowledge and skills from a PLD. This ensures that each test has questions that measure student performance all along the continuum. Questions on the Science Regents Examinations will emphasize skills from the PLDs that can be measured via written assessment. Teachers can use the PLDs in the same manner when developing both formative and summative classroom assessments. Tasks that require students to demonstrate knowledge and skills from the PLDs can be tied back to the performance level with which the PLD is associated, providing the teacher with feedback about the students' progress as well as a wealth of other skills that the students are likely able to demonstrate (or can aspire to in the case of the next-highest PLD).

Topic and PE	NYS Level 5	NYS Level 4	NYS Level 3	NYS Level 2	NYS Level 1
	Construct and revise	Construct an	Construct an	Describe the evidence	Identify the evidence
Structure and	an explanation based	explanation based on	explanation based on	that supports an	that supports the
Function	on evidence for how	evidence for how the	evidence for how the	explanation that the	claim/explanation
	the structure of DNA	structure of DNA	structure of DNA	structure of DNA	that the structure of
HS-LS1-1	determines the	determines the structure	determines the	determines the	DNA determines the
	structure of proteins	of proteins which carry	structure of proteins	structure of proteins.	structure of proteins
	which carry out the	out the essential	which carry out		or identify the
	essential functions of	functions of life	essential functions.		explanation/claim
	life through systems of	through systems of			using given evidence that the structure of
	specialized cells.	specialized cells.			DNA determines the
Structure and	Develop and revise a	Develop and use a	Complete a model to	Given a model,	structure of proteins. Given a model,
Function	model based on	model to illustrate the	illustrate that the	describe the	identify components
Function	evidence to illustrate	hierarchical	hierarchical	organization of at	that show interactions
HS-LS1-2	the hierarchical	organization of	organization of	least two systems and	of two systems within
	organization of	interacting systems that	interacting systems	the interactions of	an organism.
	interacting systems	provide specific	provides specific	those systems within	un organism.
	that provide specific	functions within	functions within	an organism.	
	functions within	multicellular	multicellular	<i>0</i> <sup></sup>	
	multicellular	organisms.	organisms.		
	organisms.	C	0		
Structure and	Plan, conduct, and	Plan and conduct an	Plan an investigation	Given an	Given an
Function	evaluate an	investigation to provide	that could provide	investigation with	investigation with
	investigation to	evidence that feedback	evidence that feedback	data, provide/identify	data, identify an
HS-LS1-3	provide evidence that	mechanisms maintain	mechanisms maintain	the evidence that	explanation for how a
	feedback mechanisms	homeostasis.	homeostasis <u>or</u> given a	supports a claim that	feedback mechanism
	maintain homeostasis.		plan and the results of	feedback mechanisms	maintains
			an investigation,	maintain	homeostasis.
			describe the evidence	homeostasis.	
			that feedback		
			mechanisms maintain		
			homeostasis.		

Topic and PE	NYS Level 5	NYS Level 4	NYS Level 3	NYS Level 2	NYS Level 1
Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems HS-LS1-5	Develop a model to illustrate how photosynthesis transforms light energy into stored chemical energy.	Use a model to illustrate how photosynthesis transforms light energy into stored chemical energy.	Use a model to identify the inputs and outputs of matter and energy in photosynthesis.	Use a model to identify the correct explanation that photosynthesis converts light energy into chemical energy.	Identify the correct model that shows how photosynthesis converts light energy into chemical energy.
Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems HS-LS1-6	Construct and revise an explanation based on evidence from a variety of sources for how carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen from sugar molecules may combine with other elements such as nitrogen, sulfur, and phosphorus to form amino acids and other carbon-based molecules.	Construct and revise an explanation based on evidence for how carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen from sugar molecules may combine with other elements such as nitrogen, sulfur, and phosphorus to form amino acids and other carbon-based molecules.	Construct or revise an explanation based on evidence for how carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen from sugar molecules may combine with other elements such as nitrogen, sulfur, and phosphorus to form amino acids and/or other carbon-based molecule(s).	Support a given explanation, by providing/identify evidence, for how the elements from sugar molecules may combine with other elements to form amino acids and/or other carbon-based molecule(s).	Identify the explanation, from those provided, using given evidence, that supports the claim that the elements from sugar molecules may combine with other elements to form amino acids and/or other carbon-based molecule(s).
Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems HS-LS1-7	Develop a model to illustrate that aerobic cellular respiration is a chemical process whereby the bonds of food molecules and oxygen molecules are broken and the bonds in new compounds are formed resulting in a net transfer of energy.	Use a model to illustrate that aerobic cellular respiration is a chemical process whereby the bonds of food molecules and oxygen molecules are broken and the bonds in new compounds are formed resulting in a net transfer of energy.	Use a model to illustrate the inputs and outputs of cellular respiration by which the energy in the bonds of food molecules is converted and made available to the organism in a usable form.	Use a model to identify that cellular respiration is a chemical process by which the energy in food molecules is converted and is made available to the organism in a useable form <u>or</u> identify the inputs and outputs of cellular respiration.	Use a model to identify that cellular respiration is a chemical process by which the energy in food molecules is made available to the organism in a usable form <u>or</u> identify the correct model that represents cellular respiration.

Topic and PE	NYS Level 5	NYS Level 4	NYS Level 3	NYS Level 2	NYS Level 1
Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems HS-LS2-3	Construct and revise an explanation, based on evidence obtained from a variety of reliable sources, for the cycling of matter and flow of energy in ecosystems.	Construct and revise an explanation based on evidence for the cycling of matter and flow of energy in ecosystems.	Construct or revise an explanation based on evidence for the cycling of matter and/or flow of energy in ecosystems related to photosynthesis and/or cellular respiration.	Support a given explanation by providing/identifying evidence for the cycling of matter and/or flow of energy in ecosystems related to photosynthesis and/or cellular respiration.	Identify the explanation or evidence, from those provided, for the cycling of matter and/or flow of energy in ecosystems related to photosynthesis and/or cellular respiration.
Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems HS-LS2-4	Revise a mathematical representation to support claims for the cycling of matter and flow of energy among organisms in an ecosystem.	Use mathematical representations to support claims for the cycling of matter and flow of energy among organisms in an ecosystem.	Use a mathematical representation to make a qualitative or quantitative claim that matter cycles and/or energy flows among organisms in an ecosystem.	Use a mathematical representation to identify a qualitative or quantitative claim that matter cycles or energy flows among organisms in an ecosystem.	Use a mathematical representation to identify a qualitative or quantitative evidence, from those provided, that matter cycles or energy flows among organisms in an ecosystem.
Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems HS-LS2-5	Develop and revise a model to predict the impact of changing a particular characteristic of a system on the various processes in the cycling of carbon among the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and geosphere.	Develop a model to illustrate the role of various processes in the cycling of carbon among the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and geosphere.	Complete or use a model to provide evidence that supports the cycling of carbon between at least two spheres (biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and/or geosphere.)	Use a model to describe the role of one process involved in the cycling of carbon between two of Earths spheres.	Use a model to identify one process involved in the cycling of carbon between two of Earths spheres.

<b>Topic and PE</b>	NYS Level 5	NYS Level 4	NYS Level 3	NYS Level 2	NYS Level 1
Interdependent	Develop, analyze,	Use mathematical	Use a mathematical	Use a mathematical	Use a mathematical
<b>Relationships in</b>	and/or apply	and/or computational	and/or computational	and/or computational	and/or computational
Ecosystems	mathematical and/or	representations to	representation to	representation to	representation to
	computational	support explanations	support an	describe how a biotic	identify, from those
HS-LS2-1	representations to	of biotic and abiotic	explanation of a	and/or abiotic factor	provided, a factor that
	support explanations	factors that affect	biotic or an abiotic	affects the carrying	affects the carrying
	of biotic and abiotic	carrying capacity of	factor that affects the	capacity of a	capacity of a
	factors at different	ecosystems at	carrying capacity of	population.	population.
	scales, proportions,	different scales.	an ecosystem at		
	and quantities		different spatial or		
	affecting the carrying		temporal scales.		
	capacity of				
	ecosystems.				
Interdependent	Develop, analyze,	Use a mathematical	Use a mathematical	Use a mathematical	Use a mathematical
<b>Relationships in</b>	and/or apply	representation to	representation to	representation to	representation to
Ecosystems	mathematical	support and revise	revise an explanation	support a given	identify a factor, from
	representations to	explanations based	based on evidence	explanation by	those provided, that
HS-LS2-2	support and revise	on evidence about	about factor(s)	identifying evidence	affects biodiversity or
	explanations based	factors affecting	affecting biodiversity	about factor(s)	populations in an
	on evidence about	biodiversity and	and/or population(s)	affecting biodiversity	ecosystem.
	factors affecting	populations in	in ecosystem(s) of	and/or population(s)	
	biodiversity and	ecosystems of	different scales.	in ecosystem(s).	
	populations in	different scales.			
	ecosystems of				
	different scales.				

<b>Topic and PE</b>	NYS Level 5	NYS Level 4	NYS Level 3	NYS Level 2	NYS Level 1
Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems HS-LS2-6	Use claims, evidence, and reasoning, to argue the merits of explanations regarding complex interactions in ecosystems and their ability to maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions but changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem.	Evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoning that the complex interactions in ecosystems maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions but changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem.	Evaluate a claim using evidence that the complex interactions in an ecosystem maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions or that changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem.	Identify an evidence- based claim that the complex interactions in an ecosystem maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions or that changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem <u>or</u> given evidence, from those provided, identify the	Identify the evidence, from those provided, that supports the claim that complex interactions in an ecosystem maintain relatively consistent numbers and/or types of organisms in stable conditions.
Interdependent	Design, evaluate, and	Design, evaluate, and	Refine a design	claim that describes the complex interactions. Evaluate a given	Identify, from those
Relationships in	refine solutions,	refine a solution for	solution for reducing	design solution for	provided, the best
Ecosystems	including tradeoffs, for	reducing the impacts of	the impact(s) of a	how well it reduces	design solution for
HS-LS2-7	reducing the impacts of human activities on the environment and biodiversity.	human activities on the environment and biodiversity.	human activity on the environment and/or biodiversity.	the impact(s) of a human activity on the environment and/or biodiversity.	reducing the impact(s) of human activity on the environment and biodiversity.
Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems HS-LS2-8	Evaluate the evidence and develop an argument based on the cause-and- effect relationship of group behavior on individuals and species' chances to survive and reproduce.	Evaluate the evidence for the role of group behavior on individual and species' chances to survive and reproduce.	Evaluate the evidence to make/support a claim regarding the role of group behavior on an individual's or species' chance to survive and/or reproduce.	Describe the evidence that supports the role of group behavior on an individual's and/or species chance to survive and/or reproduce.	Identify the evidence that supports the role of group behavior on an individual's and/or the species' chance to survive and/or reproduce.

<b>Topic and PE</b>	NYS Level 5	NYS Level 4	NYS Level 3	NYS Level 2	NYS Level 1
Inheritance and Variation of Traits HS-LS1-4	Revise a model based on evidence to illustrate cellular division (mitosis) and differentiation.	Use a model to illustrate cellular division (mitosis) and differentiation.	Use a model to describe the process of cellular division (mitosis) or differentiation.	Use a model to identify one result of cellular division (mitosis) and differentiation.	Use a model to identify one result of cellular division (mitosis) or differentiation.
Inheritance and Variation of Traits HS-LS3-1	Ask questions to clarify relationships about the role of non- coding and coding regions of DNA, and chromosomes that pass the instructions for characteristic traits from parents to offspring.	Ask questions to clarify relationships about the role of DNA and chromosomes in coding the instructions for characteristic traits passed from parents to offspring.	Ask a question to clarify the role of DNA and/or chromosomes in coding the instructions for characteristic traits passed from parents to offspring.	Identify a question, from those provided, about the role of DNA and/or chromosomes in coding the instructions for characteristic traits passed from parents to offspring.	Identify a question, from those provided, about the role of DNA and/or chromosomes in the passing of traits from parents to offspring.
Inheritance and Variation of Traits HS-LS3-2	Make and defend a claim based on evidence regarding the causes of inheritable genetic variations, which may result from: (1) new genetic combinations through meiosis, (2) viable errors occurring during replication, (3) mutations caused by environmental factors and/or (4) genetic engineering, and the variation's effect.	Make and defend a claim based on evidence that inheritable genetic variations may result from: (1) new genetic combinations through meiosis, (2) viable errors occurring during replication, (3) mutations caused by environmental factors and/or (4) genetic engineering.	Make or defend a claim based on evidence that inheritable genetic variations may result from: (1) new genetic combinations through meiosis and/or (2) viable errors occurring during replication, and/or (3) mutations caused by environmental factors and/or (4) genetic engineering.	Identify a claim based on evidence for a cause of inheritable genetic variation.	Identify a claim, from those provided, based on evidence that inheritable genetic variation occurs.

<b>Topic and PE</b>	NYS Level 5	NYS Level 4	NYS Level 3	NYS Level 2	NYS Level 1
Inheritance and	Apply concepts of	Apply concepts of	Apply concepts of	Analyze and interpret	Use data to identify
Variation of Traits	statistics and probability to explain	statistics and probability to explain	statistics and probability to explain	data to describe the variability or	the distribution or variability of an
HS-LS3-3	that changing a variable can affect the variation and distribution of expressed traits in a population.	the variation and distribution of expressed traits in a population.	the variation or distribution of expressed trait(s) in a population.	distribution of an expressed trait in a population.	expressed trait in a population.
Inheritance and	Revise a model to	Use models to	Use model(s) to	Use a model to	Use a model to
Variation of Traits	illustrate a disruption/change	illustrate how human reproduction and	describe or explain how human	describe a structure and/or a function	identify a structure and/or a function
HS-LS1-8 NYSED	and its impact on human reproduction and development.	development maintains the continuity of life.	reproduction and/or development maintains the continuity of life.	involved in human reproduction and development.	involved in human reproduction or development.

Natural Selection and EvolutionCompare and evaluate sources of information illustrating patterns showing that common ancestry and biological evolution are supported by multiple lines of empirical evidence and communicate findings.Communicate scientific information that common ancestry and biological evolution.Describe the scientific information that is supported by empirical evidence for common ancestry and/or evolution.Use information identify the empi evidence for common ancestry and/or evolution.Use information identify the empi evidence for common ancestry and/or evolution.Natural Selection andConstruct an explanation based on evidenceConstruct an explanation based onConstruct an explanation based onConstruct an explanation based onIdentify the empirical evidence for common ancestry and/or evolution.Identify the empirical evidence for common ancestry and/or evolution.	rical ose
Evolutionillustrating patterns showing that common ancestry and biological evolution are supported 	ose nce,
HS-LS4-1showing that common ancestry and biological evolution are supported by multiple lines of 	nce,
HS-LS4-1ancestry and biological evolution are supported by multiple lines of empirical evidence and communicate findings.evolution are supported by multiple lines of empirical evidence.for common ancestry and/or evolution.for common ancestry and/or evolution.for common ancestry and/or evolution.for common ancestry and/or evolution.NaturalConstruct an explanationConstruct anConstruct anIdentify theIdentify the evidence	nce,
HS-LS4-1evolution are supported by multiple lines of empirical evidence and communicate findings.supported by multiple lines of empirical evidence.and/or evolution.and/or evolution.NaturalConstruct an explanationConstruct anConstruct anIdentify theIdentify the evidence	nce,
by multiple lines of empirical evidence and communicate findings.   lines of empirical evidence.     Natural   Construct an explanation   Construct an     Construct an explanation   Construct an   Identify the	
empirical evidence and communicate findings.   evidence.   evidence.   low construct an evidence.     Natural   Construct an explanation   Construct an   Construct an   Identify the	
communicate findings.   construct an explanation   Construct an   Identify the     Natural   Construct an explanation   Construct an   Identify the   Identify the evidence	
Natural Construct an explanation Construct an Construct an Identify the	
Selection and based on evidence explanation based on explanation based on explanation based on from those providence	ed,
Science and contraction of the second of the	
<b>Evolution</b> obtained from a variety evidence that the evidence that the evidence that the that supports the	
of reliable sources that process of evolution process of evolution evolution is the result explanation that	
<b>HS-LS4-2</b> natural selection is a primarily results from can involve: (1) the of genetic and/or evolution is the r	
process leading to four factors: potential of species to environmental of a genetic and/o	
biological evolution of a $(1)$ the potential of increase in number, factor(s) <u>or</u> justify environmental factor	tor.
species, primarily species to increase in and/or why the given	
caused by four factors: number, (2) the heritable explanation is correct	
(1) the potential of (2) the heritable genetic variation of or incorrect.	
species to increase in genetic variation of individuals in a	
number, individuals in a species due to	
(2) the heritable genetic species due to mutation and sexual	
variation of individuals mutation and sexual reproduction, and/or	
in a species due to reproduction, (3) competition for mutation and sexual (3) competition for limited resources,	
reproduction, limited resources, and and/or (4) the	
(3) competition for (4) the proliferation of proliferation of those	
limited resources, and those organisms that organisms that are	
(4) the proliferation of are better able to better able to survive	
those organisms that are survive and reproduce and reproduce in the	
better able to survive in the environment.	
and reproduce in the	
environment.	

<b>Topic and PE</b>	NYS Level 5	NYS Level 4	NYS Level 3	NYS Level 2	NYS Level 1
Natural	Apply concepts of	Apply concepts of	Apply mathematical	Use a given	Use a given
Selection and	statistics and probability	statistics and	concepts to support an	mathematical	mathematical
Evolution	to support explanations	probability to support	explanation and/or	representation to	representation, from
	and predict patterns that	explanations that	identify a pattern to	describe a pattern	those provided, to
HS-LS4-3	organisms with an	organisms with an	describe a trend in a	and/or describe a	identify a pattern in a
	advantageous heritable	advantageous heritable	trait in a population	trend in a trait in a	trait in a population
	trait tend to increase in	trait tend to increase in	over time (based on	population over time.	over time.
	proportion to organisms	proportion to organisms	environmental		
	lacking this trait.	lacking this trait.	factors).		
Natural	Construct an explanation	Construct an	Construct and/or	Identify an evidence-	Identify the evidence
Selection and	based on evidence	explanation based on	identify an explanation	based explanation	that an environmental
Evolution	obtained from a variety of	evidence for how	based on evidence that	that an environmental	factor can cause a
	reliable sources that	natural selection leads	natural selection leads	factor could affect a	change in a
HS-LS4-4	identifies cause and effect	to adaptation of	to adaptation of	population (due to a	population (gene
	relationships for how	populations.	populations.	change in gene	frequency).
	natural selection leads to			frequency).	
	adaptation of populations				
	and predicts changes				
	relating to gene or trait				
Natural	frequencies. Evaluate the evidence and	Evaluate the evidence	Explain how the	Identify a claim	Identify the evidence
Selection and	generate an argument	supporting claims that	provided evidence	supported by	that supports that a
	defending/refuting a	changes in	supports a claim that	evidence that a	change in an
Evolution	claim that changes in	environmental	environmental	change in an	environmental
	environmental conditions	conditions may result	conditions may cause	environmental	condition may cause
HS-LS4-5	may cause situations	in:	a change in species	condition may cause	changes in species.
	which result in:	(1) increases in the	such as (1) increases	changes in a species	enanges in species.
	(1) increases in the	number of individuals	in the number of	or justify if the	
	number of individuals of	of some species,	individuals, and/or	provided evidence	
	some species,	(2) the emergence of	(2) the emergence of	supports or does not	
	(2) the emergence of new	new species over time,	new species over time,	support a claim that	
	species over time, and	and	and/or	conditions may cause	
	(3) the extinction of other	(3) the extinction of	(3) the extinction of	changes in species.	
	species.	other species.	species.		

<b>Topic and PE</b>	NYS Level 5	NYS Level 4	NYS Level 3	NYS Level 2	NYS Level 1
Earth's Systems	Develop a quantitative model to	Develop a quantitative model to	Use/complete a quantitative model to	Use a qualitative or quantitative model to	Given a qualitative or quantitative model,
HS-ESS2-6	describe the cycling of carbon among the hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere and predict the effects of a change in carbon dioxide concentrations due to human activity affecting climate.	describe the cycling of carbon among the hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere.	describe the cycling of carbon between two Earth spheres (hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere).	identify the cycling of carbon between two Earth spheres (hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere).	identify a process that returns carbon to the hydrosphere, or atmosphere, or geosphere, or biosphere.
Earth's Systems HS-ESS2-7	Construct, compare, and critique arguments supported by evidence about the coevolution of Earth's systems and life on Earth.	Construct an argument based on evidence about the coevolution of Earth's systems and life on Earth.	Describe the evidence that supports a given argument about the coevolution of feedbacks between Earth's systems and life on Earth.	Identify the evidence that supports an argument about the coevolution of feedbacks between Earth's systems and life on Earth.	Identify an argument, from those provided, that supports the coevolution of Earth's systems and life on Earth.

<b>Topic and PE</b>	NYS Level 5	NYS Level 4	NYS Level 3	NYS Level 2	NYS Level 1
Engineering Design HS-ETS1-1	Evaluate two or more major global challenges to specify qualitative and quantitative criteria and constraints for solutions, which could include new technologies, that account for societal needs and wants.	Analyze a major global challenge to specify qualitative and quantitative criteria and constraints for solutions that account for societal needs and wants.	Analyze a major global challenge to specify qualitative or quantitative criteria and constraints for solutions that account for societal needs and wants.	Given a major global challenge, describe the qualitative or quantitative criteria or constraint for the given solution that best accounts for societal needs or wants.	Given a major global challenge, identify the criteria or constraint for the given solution that best accounts for societal needs or wants.
Engineering Design HS-ETS1-2	For a complex real- world problem, design multiple solutions to sub-problems based on student generated data and/or scientific information from other sources. Describe the rationale, criteria, and constraints of each sub- problem.	Design a solution to a complex real-world problem by breaking it down into smaller, more manageable problems that can be solved through engineering.	Given a complex real-world problem, identify one smaller more manageable problem and describe a solution to that problem that can be solved through engineering.	Given a complex real-world problem that has been broken down into smaller, more manageable problems, identify a solution to one smaller problem that can be solved through engineering.	Identify the solution, from those provided, that addresses a smaller, more manageable real- world problem.

<b>Topic and PE</b>	NYS Level 5	NYS Level 4	NYS Level 3	NYS Level 2	NYS Level 1
Engineering Design HS-ETS1-3	Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and trade-offs that account for a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, as well as possible social, cultural, and environmental impacts. Explain how these solutions affect society and the environment.	Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and trade-offs that account for a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, as well as possible social, cultural, and environmental impacts.	Identify a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and/or trade-offs (positives and negatives) for a range of constraints, such as cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, as well as possible social, cultural or environmental impacts.	Describe a solution to a complex real- world problem based on given criteria and constraints.	Identify a solution, from those provided, to a complex real- world problem based on given criteria and/or constraints.
Engineering Design HS-ETS1-4	Use a computer simulation to model the impact of proposed solutions to related complex real- world problems with numerous criteria and constraints on interactions within and between systems relevant to the problem.	Use a computer simulation to model the impact of proposed solutions to a complex real-world problem with numerous criteria and constraints on interactions within and between systems relevant to the problem.	Given data (from a computer simulation) describe the impact of proposed solutions to a complex real- world problem with limited criteria and constraints on interactions within and/or between systems relevant to the problem.	Given data (from a computer simulation) identify the impact of a proposed solution to a complex real- world problem, or the impact on an interaction within or between two systems relevant to the problem.	Identify the impact of a given solution to a complex real-world problem.