

## Colorado Alternate Grade 8 Science Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)

**Students demonstrate science concepts and skills aligned to the Grade Level Expectations and Extended Evidence Outcomes contained in the Colorado Academic Standards.**

**With appropriate support, Advanced students can typically:**

- Match an object to itself before and after a physical or chemical change
- Compare and contrast different water or sound waves using wave characteristics
- Determine if different materials can absorb, reflect, or refract light
- Predict the effect of a human activity on a local ecosystem
- Identify why the appearances of the Sun and the moon change in the sky, including phases of the moon and eclipses

**With appropriate support, At Target students can typically:**

- Determine an object's directionality and compare the speeds of moving objects
- Determine sources for light and heat
- Determine if an object has undergone a physical or chemical change
- Identify sources of waves
- Identify human activities that have an effect on local ecosystems
- Identify traits that are passed down from parent to child
- Compare safe and unsafe practices during severe weather conditions
- Use models and simulations to explore the motions of Earth, the moon, and the Sun

**With appropriate support, Approaching Target students can typically:**

- Recognize that the speed and direction of a force can change moving objects
- Compare different forms of energy
- Label chemical and physical changes
- Label different types of waves
- Recognize the effect of human activity on the local ecosystem
- Identify similarities and differences in parents and children
- Identify severe weather conditions and follow a simple action plan for severe weather
- Recognize facts and fiction in regards to space exploration

**With appropriate support, Emerging students can typically:**

- Identify objects changing speed while moving
- Recognize that heat, light, and electricity are forms of energy
- Identify different types of waves
- Recognize stages of human aging
- Recognize different weather conditions
- Identify different climates
- Identify scientific tools related to weather and space exploration
- Acknowledge that celestial objects have patterns of movement

**An Inconclusive designation is given to students who did not respond to any items on the assessment.**