

**Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Alternate Assessment of Science
(NSCAS-AAS) Performance Level Descriptors, Grade 8**

Below the Standards

Using their primary mode of communication, appropriate supports and accommodations, the student demonstrates a basic level of understanding of extended grade-level science skills and concepts. Inaccuracies may interfere with conceptual understanding. The student may require frequent prompting in order to complete a task.

- Identify a wheel and/or inclined plane
- Match a solid to its liquid state
- Identify common sources of light
- Recognize the human brain, heart, and lungs
- Match parent to offspring
- Recognize the earth, moon, and sun in various representations

Meets the Standards

Using their primary mode of communication, appropriate supports and accommodations, the student demonstrates a consistent understanding of extended grade-level science skills and concepts. The student may require minimal prompting in order to complete a task. Inaccuracies that do not interfere with conceptual understanding may be present.

- Select a simple machine to solve a common problem
- Recognize basic organs and identify their functions
- Identify adaptations that help an organism survive in a given environment
- Recognize if an organism is a producer or a consumer within an ecosystem
- Identify the relationship of the earth to the sun and moon
- Recognize common changes in the physical properties of matter

Exceeds the Standards

Using their primary mode of communication, appropriate supports and accommodations, the student exceeds the expectation by demonstrating independent and consistent understanding of extended grade-level science skills and concepts. The student typically requires minimal or no prompting in order to complete a task. Inaccuracies that do not interfere with conceptual understanding are rarely present.

- Determine which simple machine would best solve a problem
- Explain the reason(s) for an organism's ability or inability to survive in a given environment
- Determine the missing element(s) in the flow of matter/energy of a given ecosystem
- Order the planets of the solar system according to their distance from the sun
- Identify and compare differences between revolution and rotation
- Apply appropriate procedures to change water from solid to liquid to gas