

Quick Reference

Teachers' Guide to Statewide Assessment

Science

1. It is critical that you understand the purpose of the Dimensions for each Strand.

- ◆ Science as Inquiry – pages 5 and 6
- ◆ Physical Science – pages 11 and 12
- ◆ Life Science – pages 19 and 20
- ◆ Earth and Space Science – pages 27 and 28
- ◆ Science and the Environment – pages 35 and 36

Each benchmark is related to a certain dimension. The dimensions identify how we will assess certain benchmarks on LEAP 21/GEE 21.

Strands	Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Dimension 3
Science as Inquiry	Questioning, Planning, Doing, & Recording	Interpreting & Communicating	
Physical Science	Understanding Essential Content & Concepts	Explaining, Reflecting, & Connecting	Applying & Using Knowledge and Technology
Life Science			
Earth & Space Science			
Science and the Environment			

For example, ESS-E-A1 is a grade 4 Earth and Space Science benchmark (understanding that earth materials are rocks, minerals, and soils). We have identified this benchmark to be assessed at the Dimension 1 level. Dimension 1 is Understanding Essential Content and Concepts. We will expect students to have basic content knowledge that earth materials are rocks, minerals, and soils.

ESS-E-A2 is a grade 4 Earth and Space Science benchmark (understanding that approximately three-fourths of Earth's surface is covered with water and how this condition affects weather patterns and climates). We have identified this benchmark to be assessed at the Dimension 2 level. Dimension 2 is Explaining, Reflecting, and Connecting. We will expect students to be able to explain the water cycle and how the amount of water affects weather patterns.

ESS-E-A7 is a grade 4 Earth and Space Science benchmark (investigating fossils and describing how they provide evidence about plants and animals that lived long ago and the environment in which they lived). We have identified this benchmark to be assessed at the Dimension 3 level. Dimension 3 is Applying and Using Knowledge and Technology.

2. The Seven Guiding Questions – These questions serve as the format for the entire guide.
 - ◆ What Is the Standard?
 - ◆ What Is the Focus?
 - ◆ What Does It Include?
 - ◆ Where Would I Find It In the Content Standards?
 - ◆ What Does It Look Like at the Benchmark Level?
 - ◆ What Are the Performance Expectations?
 - ◆ What Would the Assessment Items Look Like?
3. Look at pages 69—73. These pages identify the characteristics of each item type, the test blueprint and number of items assessed at each strand, and a model test blueprint for grades 4, 8, and 11.
4. Look at pages 43—59. We have provided the benchmark statements for grades 4, 8, and 11.
5. Look at pages 60—65. We have provided sample inquiry-based lessons for classroom use at grades 4, 8, and 11.
6. Look at pages 66—68. We have provided general scoring information.