

2019 Science Standards

Q&As about Implementation, Teacher Licensure, and More

October 2023



Graduation Requirements

- One credit to satisfy all the Earth and Space Science Standards for Grades 9-12
- One credit to satisfy all the Life Science Standards for Grades 9-12
- One credit to satisfy all the Chemistry or Physics Standards for Grades 9-12

Graduation Requirements: Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120B.024, subdivision 1, has been amended by [Laws of Minnesota 2023, chapter 55, article 2, section 7](#).

Background

The 2019 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science ("2019 Science Standards") were adopted by the Minnesota Department of Education in 2021. Full implementation is scheduled for the 2024-25 school year, and the new MCA IV will be administered in Spring of 2025.

2019 Science Standards & Benchmark Assignments

K-Grade 5: Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth & Space Science (benchmarks at each grade level)
Grade 6: Earth & Space Science benchmarks
Grade 7: Life Science benchmarks
Grade 8: Physical Science benchmarks
Grade 9-12: Earth & Space Science and Life Science Benchmarks and either Physics or Chemistry benchmarks

Where can I find more information about science standards implementation?

- [Minnesota Academic Standards in Science \(with examples and emphasis statements\)](#)
- [Using Assessment Results During Transition to New Academic Standards: Science](#)
- MDE's [Science Standards Implementation webpage](#)

Where can I find more about which license is required for a particular science assignment?

The [2023-24 Assignment-Licensure Table](#) assists in determining the license a teacher must hold in order to fill a particular assignment.



Can I add a 9-12 science licensure field via testing?

Yes! A teacher can add a 9-12 science licensure field via testing if:

- the teacher has at least 3 years of experience teaching science in grades 7-12,
- the teacher holds a 7-12 or 9-12 Minnesota science license, and
- the teacher passed the MTLE science content exam for the licensure field.

You can find more information about adding a science licensure field via testing [here](#).

Can a science teacher use an out-of-field permission (OFP) to teach in a different grade or content area?

Yes! An OFP authorizes a licensed Tier 2, 3, or 4 teacher to teach in a field outside their licensure field(s) or grade level(s). The permission application is initiated by the district. An OFP is valid for up to one school year and is renewable.

In 2021, [PELSB adopted additional flexibilities](#) to support schools as they fully implement the 2019 science standards. A district does not need to post a science position before offering it to an existing science teacher who holds a Tier 3 or Tier 4 license in a science field but would require an OFP for that particular assignment. The OFP will not count toward the teacher's lifetime total of OFPs.

PELSB will begin reviewing OFP requests for the 2023-24 school year beginning on July 1, 2023.

Can I add a 5-8 general science license via testing?

Unfortunately, no. A teacher can add a 5-8 general science license by:

- [completing a licensure program](#), or
- completing [licensure via portfolio](#).



Contact Information

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Example Assignments

Possible Licensure Options

6th Grade Earth & Space
Science

- 5-8 Science
- 5-9 Science (legacy)
- Elementary Education

7th Grade Life Science

- 5-8 Science
- 5-9 Science (legacy)
- 7-12 Biological Science (legacy)

8th Physical Science

- 5-8 Science
- 5-9 Science (legacy)
- 7-12 Physical Science (legacy)
- 7-12 Physics (legacy)
- 7-12 Chemistry (legacy)

9th Grade Integrated Science

- 5-8 Science
- 5-9 Science (legacy)
- Two discipline-specific licenses, such as 9-12 Chemistry and 9-12 Life Sciences

9th Earth & Space Science

- 5-9 Science (legacy)
- 7-12 Earth & Space Science (legacy)
- 9-12 Earth & Space Science

Notes

1. Districts, schools, and educators make curriculum and instruction decisions to support student mastery of standards.
2. These assignments and licensure options are examples. Additional licensure and course options may exist, including the ability to request an out-of-field permission for a teacher whose license does not align to the assignment. Please contact STAR.PELSB@state.mn.us to speak with a Compliance Specialist for additional options.