

Science Investigations Information

- The Investigations are not a standardized State test...they are hands-on performance assessments that are a component of the State strategy for assessing science.
- The activities are designed to be completed collaboratively, while the questions are answered individually by the students.
- The most important thing is that students are having hands-on opportunities to experience quality, 3-dimensional scientific activities.
- The Investigations are designed to be embedded into instruction and can be offered any time during the school year, dependent on when teachers cover the particular Learning Standards assessed.
 - For example, if a school chooses to teach life science during Grade 7, students may complete the relevant Investigation that year rather than during Grade 8 if the school determines this to be the appropriate approach.
- It is recommended to look closely at the alignment documents associated with each Investigation in order to make the most informed decision as when and where to embed the Investigations.
 - At the elementary level, schools choosing when to administer a particular Investigation should consider the level of the primary Performance Expectation (PE) addressed in the Investigation as well as the Related PEs. In many cases these cover several grade levels. For example – “The Circle of Life” Investigation, primary PE is 3rd grade, however the related PE is a 5th grade PE.
- There are benefits to completing all Investigations in the school year leading up to the written test, however this is not required and the decision on when to complete the Investigations is left to local discretion.
- Ultimately, the decision on when to complete the Investigations is left to local discretion as is how the Investigations will fit into the science curriculum.

CONTACT US!



NYSED Office of Assessment website:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>



Questions pertaining to science
assessment: emscassessinfo@nysed.gov



NYSED Standards and Instruction Website:
www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction



Questions pertaining to science standards and
instruction: emscurric@nysed.gov

