



PLTW Launch Standards Guide

Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards
for Science



PLTW Launch (PreK-5) is designed to support your learning needs. The modules are developed to ensure an unmatched experience, combining three-dimensional learning; unique, problem-based instructional approach; real-world applied learning; as well as Spanish language options – all in one program.

This Standards Guides shows how each PLTW Launch module supports the Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for Science. Because schools need the flexibility to implement the curriculum in the way that best meets their students' needs, PLTW Launch is designed to support a wide range of implementations. Whether the modules are offered in all classrooms, as a specials rotation, as grade level rotations, as an after-school program, or even as a summer learning implementation, PLTW Launch offers the flexibility to meet your needs.

Use this Standards Guide in combination with the [Module Descriptions PDF](#) as planning tools to explore how you can implement PLTW Launch as your elementary learning solution.



Kindergarten

		Performance Expectation	PLTW Launch Modules
SC.K.1 Forces and Interactions: Pushes and Pulls	SC.K.1.1 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of forces and their interactions.	SC.K.1.1.A Plan and conduct an investigation to compare the effects of different strengths or different directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object.	Pushes and Pulls
		SC.K.1.1.B Analyze data to determine if a design solution works as intended to change the speed or direction of an object with a push or a pull.	Pushes and Pulls
SC.K.7 Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants, and Their Environment	SC.K.7.2 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of interdependent relationships in ecosystems.	SC.K.7.2.A Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.	Living Things: Needs and Impacts
		SC.K.7.2.B Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the environment to meet their needs.	Living Things: Needs and Impacts
		SC.K.7.2.C Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live.	Animals and Algorithms Living Things: Needs and Impacts
		SC.K.7.2.D Communicate solutions that will increase the positive impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment.	Living Things: Needs and Impacts
SC.K.12 Weather and Climate	SC.K.12.3 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of weather and climate.	SC.K.12.3.A Use and share observations of local weather conditions to describe patterns over time.	Sunlight and Weather
		SC.K.12.3.B Ask questions to obtain information about the purpose of weather forecasting to prepare for, and respond to, severe weather.	Sunlight and Weather
		SC.K.12.3.C Make observations to determine the effect of sunlight on Earth's surface.	Sunlight and Weather
		SC.K.12.3.D Use tools and materials to design and build a structure that will reduce the warming effect of sunlight on an area.	Sunlight and Weather
		SC.K.12.3.E Ask questions, make observations, and gather information about a situation people want to change to define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool.	All kindergarten PLTW Launch modules support this standard.

	Standard	Performance Expectation	PLTW Launch Modules
SC.1.2 Waves: Light and Sound	SC.1.2.1 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of light and sound waves.	SC.1.2.1.A Plan and conduct investigations to provide evidence that vibrating materials can make sound and that sound can make materials vibrate.	Light and Sound
		SC.1.2.1.B Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that objects can be seen only when illuminated.	Light and Sound
		SC.1.2.1.C Plan and conduct an investigation to determine the effect of placing objects made with different materials in the path of a beam of light.	Light and Sound
		SC.1.2.1.D Use tools and materials to design and build a device that uses light or sound to solve the problem of communicating over a distance.	Light and Sound
SC.1.6 Structure, Function, and Information Processing	SC.1.6.2 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence to show the relationship between structure and function in living things.	SC.1.6.2.A Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.	Animal Adaptations Designs Inspired by Nature
		SC.1.6.2.B Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a given problem.	All first grade PLTW Launch modules support this standard.
		SC.1.6.2.C Read texts and use media to determine patterns in a behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive.	Designs Inspired by Nature
		SC.1.6.2.D Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.	Designs Inspired by Nature
SC.1.11 Space Systems: Patterns and Cycles	SC.1.11.3 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of patterns and cycles of space systems.	SC.1.11.3.A Use observations of the sun, moon, and stars to describe patterns that can be predicted.	Light: Observing the Sun, Moon, and Stars
		SC.1.11.3.B Make observations at different times of the year to relate the amount of daylight to the time of year.	Light: Observing the Sun, Moon, and Stars

Second Grade

	Standard	Performance Expectation	PLTW Launch Modules
SC.2.3 Structure and Properties of Matter	SC.2.3.1 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of the structure, properties, and interactions of matter.	SC.2.3.1.A Plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties.	Materials Science: Properties of Matter
		SC.2.3.1.B Analyze data obtained from testing different materials to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose.	Materials Science: Properties of Matter Materials Science: Form and Function
		SC.2.3.1.C Analyze data from tests of two objects designed to solve the same problem to compare the strengths and weaknesses of how each performs.	All second grade PLTW Launch modules support this standard.
		SC.2.3.1.D Make observations to construct an evidence-based account of how an object made of a small set of pieces can be disassembled and made into a new object.	Materials Science: Properties of Matter Materials Science: Form and Function
		SC.2.3.1.E Construct an argument with evidence that some changes caused by heating or cooling can be reversed and some cannot.	Materials Science: Properties of Matter
SC.2.7 Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems	SC.2.7.2 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of interdependent relationships in ecosystems.	SC.2.7.2.A Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow.	Living Things: Diversity of Life
		SC.2.7.2.B Develop a simple model that mimics the function of an animal in dispersing seeds or pollinating plants.	Materials Science: Form and Function
		SC.2.7.2.C Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.	Living Things: Diversity of Life
SC.2.13 Earth's Systems: Processes That Shape the Earth	SC.2.13.3 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of the processes that shape the earth.	SC.2.13.3.A Use information from several sources to provide evidence that Earth events can occur quickly or slowly.	The Changing Earth
		SC.2.13.3.B Compare multiple solutions designed to slow or prevent wind or water from changing the shape of the land.	The Changing Earth
		SC.2.13.3.C Develop a model to represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water in an area.	The Changing Earth
		SC.2.13.3.D Obtain information to identify where water is found on Earth and that it can be solid or liquid.	The Changing Earth

Third Grade

	Standard	Performance Expectation	PLTW Launch Modules
SC.3.1 Forces and Interactions: Motion and Stability	SC.3.1.1 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of forces and their interactions.	SC.3.1.1.A Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence of the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object.	Stability and Motion: Science of Flight Stability and Motion: Forces and Interactions
		SC.3.1.1.B Make observations and/or measurements of an object’s motion to provide evidence that a pattern can be used to predict future motion.	Stability and Motion: Science of Flight Stability and Motion: Forces and Interactions
		SC.3.1.1.C Ask questions to determine cause and effect relationships of electrical or magnetic interactions between two objects not in contact with each other.	Stability and Motion: Forces and Interactions
		SC.3.1.1.D Define a simple design problem that can be solved by applying scientific ideas about magnets.	Stability and Motion: Forces and Interactions
SC.3.7 Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems	SC.3.7.2 Gather and analyze data to communicate an understanding of the interdependent relations in ecosystems.	SC.3.7.2.A Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.	Life Cycles and Survival
		SC.3.7.2.B Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and environments in which they lived long ago.	Environmental Changes
		SC.3.7.2.C Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.	Environmental Changes
		SC.3.7.2.D Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.	Environmental Changes
		SC.3.7.2.E Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.	All third grade PLTW Launch modules support this standard.
SC.3.9 Inheritance and Variation: Life Cycles and Traits	SC.3.9.3 Gather and analyze data to communicate an understanding of inheritance and variation of traits through life cycles and environmental influences.	SC.3.9.3.A Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.	Life Cycles and Survival
		SC.3.9.3.B Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms.	Variation of Traits
		SC.3.9.3.C Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.	Variation of Traits
		SC.3.9.3.D Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.	Variation of Traits
SC.3.12 Weather and Climate	SC.3.12.4 Gather and analyze data to communicate an understanding of weather and climate.	SC.3.12.4.A Represent data in table, pictograph, and bar graph displays to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season.	Weather: Factors and Hazards
		SC.3.12.4.B Obtain and combine information to describe climates in different regions of the world.	Weather: Factors and Hazards
		SC.3.12.4.C Make a claim about the merit of a design solution that reduces the impacts of a weather-related hazard.	Weather: Factors and Hazards

Fourth Grade

	Standard	Performance Expectation	PLTW Launch Modules
SC.4.2 Waves: Waves and Information	SC.4.2.1 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of waves and the information they transfer.	SC.4.2.1.A Develop a model of waves to describe patterns in terms of amplitude and wavelength and that waves can cause objects to move.	Waves and the Properties of Light
		SC.4.2.1.B Generate and compare multiple solutions that use patterns to transfer information.	All fourth grade PLTW Launch modules support this standard.
SC.4.4 Energy: Conservation and Transfer	SC.4.4.2 Gather, analyze and communicate evidence of energy conservation and transfer.	SC.4.4.2.A Use evidence to construct an explanation relating the speed of an object to the energy of that object.	Energy Exploration
		SC.4.4.2.B Make observations to provide evidence that energy can be transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat, and electrical currents.	Energy Exploration
		SC.4.4.2.C Ask questions and predict outcomes about the changes in energy that occur when objects collide.	Energy Exploration
		SC.4.4.2.D Apply scientific ideas to design, test, and refine a device that converts energy from one form to another.	Energy Exploration
		SC.4.4.2.E Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved.	Energy Exploration Energy Exploration Input/Output: Computer Systems Waves and the Properties of Light
		SC.4.4.2.F Obtain and combine information to describe that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and that their uses affect the environment.	Earth: Human Impact and Natural Disasters
SC.4.6 Structure, Function, and Information Processing	SC.4.6.3 Gather and analyze data to communicate an understanding of structure, function and information processing of living things.	SC.4.6.3.A Develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eyes allows objects to be seen.	Waves and the Properties of Light
		SC.4.6.3.B Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.	Organisms: Structure and Function
		SC.4.6.3.C Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information.	Input/Output: Human Brain Organisms: Structure and Function
SC.4.13 Earth's Systems: Processes That Shape the Earth	SC.4.13.4 Gather and analyze data to communicate an understanding of Earth's systems and processes that shape the Earth.	SC.4.13.4.A Identify evidence from patterns in rock formations and fossils in rock layers to support an explanation for changes in a landscape over time.	Earth: Past, Present, and Future
		SC.4.13.4.B Make observations and/or measurements to provide evidence of the effects of weathering or the rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, or vegetation.	Earth: Past, Present, and Future
		SC.4.13.4.C Analyze and interpret data from maps to describe patterns of Earth's features.	Earth: Past, Present, and Future
		SC.4.13.4.D Generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth processes on humans.	Earth: Human Impact and Natural Disasters

Fifth Grade

	Standard	Performance Expectation	PLTW Launch Modules
SC.5.3 Structure and Properties of Matter	SC.5.3.1 Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of structure and properties of matter.	SC.5.3.1.A Develop a model to describe that matter is made of particles too small to be seen.	Matter: Properties and Reactions
		SC.5.3.1.B Measure and graph quantities to provide evidence that regardless of the type of change that occurs when heating, cooling, or mixing substances, the total weight of matter is conserved.	Matter: Properties and Reactions
		SC.5.3.1.C Make observations and measurements to identify materials based on their properties.	Matter: Properties and Reactions
		SC.5.3.1.D Conduct an investigation to determine whether the mixing of two or more substances results in new substances.	Matter: Properties and Reactions
SC.5.8 Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems	SC.5.8.2 Gather and analyze data to communicate understanding of matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems.	SC.5.8.2.A Use models to describe that energy in animals' food (used for body repair, growth, and motion and to maintain body warmth) was once energy from the sun.	Ecosystems: Flow of Matter and Energy
		SC.5.8.2.B Support an argument that plants get the materials they need for growth chiefly from air and water.	Ecosystems: Flow of Matter and Energy
		SC.5.8.2.C Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.	Ecosystems: Flow of Matter and Energy
SC.5.11 Space Systems: Earth's Stars and Solar System	SC.5.11.3 Gather and analyze data to communicate understanding of space systems: Earth's stars and solar system.	SC.5.11.3.A Support an argument that the gravitational force exerted by Earth on objects is directed down.	Earth's Water and Interconnected Systems
		SC.5.11.3.B Support an argument that differences in the apparent brightness of the sun compared to other stars is due to their relative distances from Earth.	Patterns in the Universe
		SC.5.11.3.C Represent data in graphical displays to reveal patterns of daily changes in the length and direction of shadows, day and night, and the seasonal appearance of some stars in the night sky.	Patterns in the Universe
SC.5.13 Earths Systems	SC.5.13.4 Gather and analyze data to communicate understanding of Earth's systems.	SC.5.13.4.A Develop a model using an example to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact.	Earth's Water and Interconnected Systems
		SC.5.13.4.B Describe and graph the amounts of salt water and fresh water in various reservoirs to provide evidence about the distribution of water on Earth.	Earth's Water and Interconnected Systems
		SC.5.13.4.C Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment.	Earth's Water and Interconnected Systems
		SC.5.13.4.D Define a simple design problem that can be solved by applying scientific ideas about the conservation of fresh water on Earth.	Earth's Water and Interconnected Systems
		SC.5.13.4.E Define a simple design problem reflecting a need or a want that includes specified criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost.	All fifth grade PLTW Launch modules support this standard.