

LIFE SCIENCE STANDARDS

- Standard I.** The science teacher manages classroom, field, and laboratory activities to ensure the safety of all students and the ethical care and treatment of organisms and specimens.
- Standard II.** The science teacher understands the correct use of tools, materials, equipment, and technologies.
- Standard III.** The science teacher understands the process of scientific inquiry and its role in science instruction.
- Standard IV.** The science teacher has theoretical and practical knowledge about teaching science and about how students learn science.
- Standard V.** The science teacher knows the varied and appropriate assessments and assessment practices to monitor science learning.
- Standard VI.** The science teacher understands the history and nature of science.
- Standard VII.** The science teacher understands how science affects the daily lives of students and how science interacts with and influences personal and societal decisions.
- Standard VIII.** *Teachers of life science are not responsible for this standard.*
- Standard IX.** The science teacher knows and understands the science content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in life science.
- Standard X.** *Teachers of life science are not responsible for this standard.*
- Standard XI.** The science teacher knows unifying concepts and processes that are common to all sciences.

Standard I. The science teacher manages classroom, field, and laboratory activities to ensure the safety of all students and the ethical care and treatment of organisms and specimens.

Teacher Knowledge: What Teachers Know	Application: What Teachers Can Do
<i>Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12</i>	<i>Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12</i>
The beginning teacher knows and understands:	The beginning teacher is able to:
1.1k safety regulations and guidelines for science facilities;	1.1s employ safe practices in designing, planning, and implementing all instructional activities (e.g., laboratory, field, demonstrations);
1.2k safety regulations and guidelines for science instruction;	1.2s determine sufficient space and classroom arrangement for carrying out laboratory activities;
1.3k procedures for the appropriate storage, handling, use, disposal, care, and maintenance of chemicals, materials, specimens, and equipment;	1.3s provide students with continuous instruction and training in safe techniques and procedures for all laboratory and field activities, student demonstrations, and independent projects;
1.4k sources of information about laboratory safety;	1.4s read and interpret safety information about chemicals on a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and on other chemical labels, including household products;
1.5k procedures for the safe handling and ethical care and treatment of organisms and specimens;	1.5s check equipment for safety (e.g., cracks in glassware, proper grounding of electrical equipment) prior to use;
1.6k procedures for responding to an accident in the laboratory, including first aid;	1.6s create, implement, and enforce rules and safety procedures to promote and maintain a safe learning environment during laboratory and field activities;
1.7k legal issues associated with accidents and injuries that occur in the classroom, field, or laboratory;	1.7s implement regular procedures to inventory and maintain appropriate safety equipment; and
1.8k potential safety hazards in the field (e.g., insect bites, poisonous plants); and	1.8s optimize quick and safe access to all safety equipment (e.g., eyewash station, sink, safety shower, fire blanket, and extinguisher).
1.9k the importance of providing laboratory space and equipment for all students, including those with special needs.	

Standard II. The science teacher understands the correct use of tools, materials, equipment, and technologies.

Teacher Knowledge: What Teachers Know

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher knows and understands:

- 2.1k procedures for the storing, securing, and routine maintenance of scientific equipment used in instructional activities;
- 2.2k correct and safe operating procedures for scientific equipment used in instructional activities;
- 2.3k concepts of precision, accuracy, and error with regard to reading and recording numerical data from a scientific instrument;
- 2.4k the international system of measurement (i.e., metric system);
- 2.5k the use of grade-appropriate equipment and technology for gathering, analyzing, and reporting data; and
- 2.6k the use of technology to acquire, assess, analyze, interpret, and communicate information.

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher is able to:

- 2.1s select and use appropriate tools, technology, materials, and equipment needed for instructional activities;
- 2.2s instruct and monitor students' use of materials, tools, and instruments;
- 2.3s make science resources accessible to all students;
- 2.4s recycle, reuse, and conserve laboratory resources as appropriate;
- 2.5s use the appropriate number of significant figures to record and report numerical data;
- 2.6s perform unit conversions within the international system of measurement (i.e., metric system);
- 2.7s perform conversions within and across measurement systems;
- 2.8s use techniques to calibrate measuring devices as appropriate;
- 2.9s organize, display, and communicate data in a variety of ways (e.g., charts, tables, graphs, diagrams, written reports, oral presentations);
- 2.10s gather, organize, display, and communicate data using appropriate technology (e.g., Internet, graphing calculators, spreadsheets); and
- 2.11s evaluate the validity of data and data sources.

Standard III. The science teacher understands the process of scientific inquiry and its role in science instruction.

Teacher Knowledge: What Teachers Know

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher knows and understands:

- 3.1k how scientists use different types of investigation, depending on the questions they are trying to answer;
- 3.2k principles and procedures for designing and conducting an inquiry-based scientific investigation;
- 3.3k the characteristics of various types of scientific investigations (e.g., descriptive studies, controlled experiments, comparative data analysis);
- 3.4k how current knowledge and theories guide scientific investigations;
- 3.5k the use of technology in scientific research; and
- 3.6k appropriate methods of statistical analysis and measures (e.g., mean, median, mode, correlation).

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher is able to:

- 3.1s design and conduct inquiry-based scientific investigations, including nonexperimental and experimental designs;
- 3.2s plan and implement instruction that provides opportunities for all students to engage in scientific inquiry by using various appropriate combinations of the following processes:
 - ask a scientific question;
 - formulate a testable hypothesis;
 - select appropriate equipment and technology for gathering information related to the hypothesis;
 - make observations and collect data taking accurate and precise measurements;
 - organize, analyze, and evaluate data to find data trends and patterns and make inferences; and
 - communicate and defend a valid conclusion about the hypothesis under investigation;
- 3.3s link inquiry investigations to students' prior knowledge and experience;
- 3.4s focus inquiry-based instruction on questions and issues that are relevant to students;
- 3.5s use strategies to assist students in identifying, refining, and focusing scientific ideas and questions guiding an inquiry activity;
- 3.6s guide students in making systematic observations and measurements;
- 3.7s use a variety of tools and techniques to access, gather, store, retrieve, organize, and analyze data;

Standard III. The science teacher understands the process of scientific inquiry and its role in science instruction.

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12 (continued)

- 3.8s provide opportunities for students to use higher-order thinking skills, logical reasoning, and scientific problem solving to reach conclusions based on evidence;
- 3.9s develop, analyze, and evaluate different explanations for a given scientific result;
- 3.10s identify potential sources of error in a given inquiry-based investigation; and
- 3.11s develop criteria for assessing student participation in and understanding of the inquiry process.

Standard IV. The science teacher has theoretical and practical knowledge about teaching science and about how students learn science.

Teacher Knowledge: What Teachers Know

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher knows and understands:

- 4.1k theories about how students develop scientific understanding;
- 4.2k how the developmental characteristics of students influence science learning;
- 4.3k the statewide curriculum as defined in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS);
- 4.4k methods of planning and implementing an inquiry-based science program;
- 4.5k how students' prior knowledge and attitudes about science may affect their learning;
- 4.6k common student misconceptions in science and effective ways to address these misconceptions;
- 4.7k how to establish a collaborative scientific community among students that supports actively engaged learning;
- 4.8k the importance of planning activities that are inclusive and accommodate the needs of all students;
- 4.9k strategies that students with diverse strengths and needs can use to determine word meaning in content-related texts;
- 4.10k strategies that students with diverse strengths and needs can use to develop content-area vocabulary;
- 4.11k strategies that students with diverse strengths and needs can use to facilitate comprehension before, during, and after reading content-related texts;
- 4.12k the design and management of learning environments that provide the time, space, and resources needed for learning science;

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher is able to:

- 4.1s use lab and field investigations to enable students to develop an understanding of science;
- 4.2s sequence learning activities in a way that allows students to build upon their prior knowledge and challenges them to expand their understanding of science;
- 4.3s model active learning and inquiry processes for students;
- 4.4s encourage students' self-motivation in their own learning;
- 4.5s display and model scientific attributes, such as curiosity, openness to new ideas, and skepticism;
- 4.6s design and adapt curricula and select content to meet the interests, knowledge, understanding, abilities, experiences, and needs of students;
- 4.7s use a variety of instructional strategies to ensure all students' reading comprehension of content-related texts, including helping students link the content of texts to their lives and connect related ideas across different texts;
- 4.8s teach students how to locate, retrieve, and retain content-related information from a range of texts and technologies;
- 4.9s teach students how to locate the meanings and pronunciations of unfamiliar content-related words using appropriate sources, such as dictionaries, thesauruses, and glossaries;
- 4.10s use questioning strategies to move students from concrete to more abstract understanding;
- 4.11s respect student diversity and encourage all students to participate fully in science learning;

Standard IV. The science teacher has theoretical and practical knowledge about teaching science and about how students learn science.

Teacher Knowledge: What Teachers Know

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12 (continued)

- 4.13k the importance of ongoing assessment of student learning and one’s own teaching practice in the science classroom; and
- 4.14k the teacher’s role in the ongoing evaluation and development of science in the total school program.

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12 (continued)

- 4.12s manage time to provide adequate opportunity for all students to participate in investigations;
- 4.13s create an environment to focus and support student inquiries;
- 4.14s use individual, small-group, and whole-class strategies to support student learning;
- 4.15s foster collaboration among students; and
- 4.16s implement science activities to incorporate schoolwide objectives.

Standard V. The science teacher knows the varied and appropriate assessments and assessment practices to monitor science learning.

Teacher Knowledge: What Teachers Know

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher knows and understands:

- 5.1k the relationships among curriculum, assessment, and instruction;
- 5.2k characteristics of various assessments, such as reliability, validity, and the absence of bias;
- 5.3k the purposes, characteristics, and uses of various types of assessments in science, including formative and summative assessments;
- 5.4k the importance of carefully selecting or designing formative and summative assessments for the specific decisions they are intended to inform;
- 5.5k the importance of monitoring and assessing students’ science understanding and skills on a regular, ongoing basis;
- 5.6k ways in which assessment results inform instructional practice;
- 5.7k strategies for assessing students’ prior knowledge and misconceptions about science;
- 5.8k questioning strategies designed to elicit higher-level thinking;
- 5.9k the importance of sharing evaluation criteria with students;
- 5.10k the role of assessments as learning experiences; and
- 5.11k strategies for engaging students in meaningful self-assessment.

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher is able to:

- 5.1s use formal and informal assessments of science performance and products (e.g., rubrics, portfolios, student profiles, checklists) to evaluate student participation in and understanding of the inquiry process;
- 5.2s select or design a variety of appropriate assessment instruments and/or methods (e.g., formal/informal, formative/summative) to monitor student understanding and progress;
- 5.3s design assessments that match each learning objective;
- 5.4s base decisions regarding instructional content, methods, and practice on information about students’ strengths and needs gathered through assessment;
- 5.5s select assessment instruments and methods that provide students with adequate opportunities to demonstrate their achievements;
- 5.6s evaluate assessment materials and procedures for reliability, validity, absence of bias, and clarity of language;
- 5.7s encourage use of self-assessment strategies in science;
- 5.8s use a variety of strategies (e.g., pre-testing, reviewing student journals, monitoring discussions, asking questions) to gain insight about students’ prior knowledge and misconceptions about science;
- 5.9s state evaluation criteria clearly so that students can understand and derive meaning from them; and
- 5.10s evaluate the quality of data obtained from an assessment and determine what decisions can appropriately be made based on the data.

Standard VI. The science teacher understands the history and nature of science.

Teacher Knowledge: What Teachers Know

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher knows and understands:

- 6.1k the limitations of the scope of science and the use and limitations of physical, mathematical, and conceptual models to describe and analyze scientific ideas about the natural world;
- 6.2k that science is a human endeavor influenced by societal, cultural, and personal views of the world;
- 6.3k that scientific ideas and explanations must be consistent with observational and experimental evidence;
- 6.4k how logical reasoning is used in the process of developing, evaluating, and validating scientific hypotheses and theories;
- 6.5k the roles that publishing and peer review play in developing and validating scientific knowledge;
- 6.6k principles of scientific ethics in reporting data and in experimenting with living organisms, including human subjects;
- 6.7k that scientific theories have predictive power;
- 6.8k that scientific theories are constantly being modified to conform more closely to new observational and experimental evidence about the natural world;
- 6.9k the historical development of science and the contributions that diverse cultures and individuals of both genders have made to scientific knowledge; and
- 6.10k the relationship between science and technology.

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher is able to:

- 6.1s provide students with opportunities to examine the types of questions that science can and cannot answer;
- 6.2s design and conduct scientific investigations to answer questions;
- 6.3s analyze, review, and critique the strengths and weaknesses of scientific explanations, hypotheses, and theories using scientific evidence and information;
- 6.4s analyze ways in which personal or societal bias can affect the direction, support, and use of scientific research;
- 6.5s use key events and knowledge of individuals from throughout the history of science to illustrate scientific concepts;
- 6.6s design instruction that accounts for the contributions to science of individuals from a variety of cultures; and
- 6.7s use examples from the history of science to demonstrate the changing nature of scientific theories and knowledge.

Standard VII. The science teacher understands how science affects the daily lives of students and how science interacts with and influences personal and societal decisions.

Teacher Knowledge: What Teachers Know

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher knows and understands:

- 7.1k that human decisions about the use of science and technology are based on factors such as ethical standards, economics, and societal and personal needs;
- 7.2k scientific concepts and principles relating to personal and societal health, including the physiological and psychological effects and risks associated with the use of substances and substance abuse;
- 7.3k concepts related to changes in populations and to characteristics of human population growth;
- 7.4k types and uses of natural resources and the effects of human consumption on the renewal and depletion of resources;
- 7.5k the properties of natural ecosystems and how natural and human processes can influence changes in environments;
- 7.6k the principles of risk and benefit analysis and how it is used in the process of personal and societal decision making; and
- 7.7k the role science can play in helping resolve personal, societal, and global challenges.

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher is able to:

- 7.1s use situations from students' daily lives to develop instructional materials that investigate how science can be used to make informed decisions;
- 7.2s apply scientific principles and processes to analyze factors that influence personal choices concerning fitness and health;
- 7.3s analyze factors that affect the severity of disease and methods for preventing, controlling, or curing diseases and ailments;
- 7.4s analyze how factors such as population growth, resource use, population distribution, overconsumption, technological capacity, poverty, and societal views can influence changes in environments;
- 7.5s apply scientific principles and the theory of probability to analyze the advantages, disadvantages, or alternatives to a given decision or course of action; and
- 7.6s demonstrate how science can be used to help make informed decisions about societal and global issues.

Standard VIII. Teachers of life science are not responsible for this standard.

Standard IX. The science teacher knows and understands the science content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in life science.

Teacher Knowledge: What Teachers Know

*Teachers of Students in Grades EC–4**

Life Science

The beginning teacher knows and understands:

- 9.1k that living systems have different structures to perform different functions;
- 9.2k that organisms have basic needs;
- 9.3k that organisms respond to internal or external stimuli;
- 9.4k the relationship between organisms and the environment;
- 9.5k the life cycles of organisms; and
- 9.6k how populations or species evolve through time.

*See 9.7k below.

Application: What Teachers Can Do

*Teachers of Students in Grades EC–4**

Life Science

The beginning teacher is able to:

- 9.1s describe stages in the life cycle of common plants and animals;
- 9.2s identify characteristics of plants and animals;
- 9.3s identify adaptive characteristics and explain how adaptations influence the survival of populations or species;
- 9.4s describe the processes by which plants and animals reproduce and explain how hereditary information is passed from one generation to the next;
- 9.5s analyze the role of internal and external stimuli in the behavior of organisms;
- 9.6s compare and contrast inherited traits and learned characteristics;
- 9.7s describe ways living organisms depend on each other and their environment for basic needs;
- 9.8s analyze the characteristics of habitats within an ecosystem; and
- 9.9s identify organisms, populations, or species with similar needs and analyze how they compete with one another for resources.

*See 9.10s below.

Standard IX. The science teacher knows and understands the science content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in life science.

<p>Teacher Knowledge: What Teachers Know</p> <p><i>Teachers of Students in Grades 4–8**</i></p> <p>Life Science</p> <p>The beginning teacher knows and understands:</p> <p>9.7k all content specified for teachers in grades EC–4;</p> <p>9.8k the structure and function of living systems;</p> <p>9.9k reproduction and the mechanisms of heredity;</p> <p>9.10k adaptations of organisms and the theory of evolution;</p> <p>9.11k regulatory mechanisms and behavior; and</p> <p>9.12k the relationships between organisms and the environment.</p> <p>**See italicized text below.</p>	<p>Application: What Teachers Can Do</p> <p><i>Teachers of Students in Grades 4–8**</i></p> <p>Life Science</p> <p>The beginning teacher is able to:</p> <p>9.10s apply all skills specified for teachers in grades EC–4, using content and contexts appropriate for grades 4–8;</p> <p>9.11s analyze how structure complements function in cells, organs, organ systems, organisms, and populations;</p> <p>9.12s identify human body systems and describe their functions;</p> <p>9.13s distinguish between dominant and recessive traits and predict the probable outcomes of genetic combinations;</p> <p>9.14s explain that every organism requires a set of instructions for specifying its traits;</p> <p>9.15s describe how an inherited trait can be determined by one or by many genes and how more than one trait can be influenced by a single gene;</p> <p>9.16s compare and contrast sexual and asexual reproduction;</p> <p>9.17s compare traits in a population or species that enhance its survival and reproduction;</p> <p>9.18s describe how populations and species change through time;</p> <p>9.19s analyze responses in organisms that result from internal and external stimuli;</p> <p>9.20s describe feedback mechanisms that allow organisms to maintain stable internal conditions;</p> <p>9.21s identify the abiotic and biotic components of an ecosystem;</p> <p>**See 9.24s below.</p>
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Standard IX. The science teacher knows and understands the science content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in life science.

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 4–8 (continued)

Life Science (continued)

9.22s describe the interrelationships among producers, consumers, and decomposers in an ecosystem; and

9.23s analyze and describe adaptive characteristics that result in a population's or species' unique niche in an ecosystem.

Standard IX. The science teacher knows and understands the science content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in life science.

Teacher Knowledge: What Teachers Know

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

Teachers of science in grades 8–12 will have a broad knowledge of all science disciplines (i.e., physical science, life science, Earth and space science) required of teachers of grades EC–8 and a deep understanding of the concepts in the science discipline(s) they teach.

Biology

The beginning teacher knows and understands:

- 9.13k cells: the structural and functional units of life;
- 9.14k heredity: the continuity and variations of traits from one generation to the next;
- 9.15k evolution of life: the historical changes in life forms;
- 9.16k diversity of life: similarities and differences among organisms;
- 9.17k flow of matter and energy: organisms are linked to one another and to their physical setting by the transfer and transformation of matter and energy; and
- 9.18k interdependence of life: species depend on one another and the environment for survival.

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

Biology

The beginning teacher is able to:

- 9.24s apply all skills specified for teachers in grades EC–4, using content and contexts appropriate for grades 8–12;
- 9.25s compare and contrast prokaryotic cells, eukaryotic cells, and viruses;
- 9.26s explain how cells carry out the life processes, including homeostasis, energy production, transportation of molecules, disposal of wastes, synthesis of new molecules and cell parts, and cellular reproduction;
- 9.27s analyze cell differentiation in the development of organisms;
- 9.28s analyze how an organism grows and how specialized cells, tissues, and organs develop;
- 9.29s compare and contrast cells in different parts of plants and animals;
- 9.30s describe the role of microorganisms and viruses in maintaining health (e.g., digestion) and in causing disease;
- 9.31s describe the structure and replication of DNA;
- 9.32s explain the model of protein synthesis;
- 9.33s compare growth, sexual and asexual reproduction, and the underlying processes of mitosis and meiosis;

Standard IX. The science teacher knows and understands the science content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in life science.

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12 (continued)

Biology (continued)

- 9.34s describe the biological significance and causes (e.g., mutation, genetic engineering) of genetic variation in populations;
- 9.35s analyze human karyotypes in order to identify gender and genetic disorders;
- 9.36s analyze how fossils, DNA sequences, anatomical similarities, physiological similarities, and embryology provide evidence of change in populations and species;
- 9.37s analyze the results of natural selection in species variation, diversity, speciation, phylogeny, adaptation, behavior, and extinction;
- 9.38s predict how an environmental change will prompt adaptations of an organism;
- 9.39s compare various scientific explanations of species diversity (e.g., natural selection, human influence, global catastrophes);
- 9.40s explain the uses and limitations of classification schemes;
- 9.41s analyze relationships among organisms to develop a model of a hierarchical classification system;
- 9.42s classify organisms at several taxonomic levels using dichotomous keys, including the use of natural materials;
- 9.43s compare the characteristics of kingdoms, including monerans, protists, fungi, plants, and animals;
- 9.44s describe how adaptations allow an organism to exist within an aquatic environment;

Standard IX. The science teacher knows and understands the science content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in life science.

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12 (continued)

Biology (continued)

- 9.45s analyze how systems and subsystems maintain homeostasis;
- 9.46s compare the structures and functions of different types of biomolecules, such as carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids;
- 9.47s identify and analyze the effects of enzymes in synthesis and degradation of biomolecules (e.g., DNA, food);
- 9.48s compare and contrast the processes of photosynthesis and cellular respiration;
- 9.49s analyze the functions of systems in plants (e.g., transport, reproduction);
- 9.50s analyze the functions of systems in animals;
- 9.51s describe the relationships between internal feedback mechanisms in the maintenance of homeostasis;
- 9.52s explain how organisms, including humans, respond to external stimuli;
- 9.53s analyze the importance of nutrition, environmental conditions, and physical exercise on health;
- 9.54s analyze the flow of energy and cycling of matter through the carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, and water cycles;
- 9.55s analyze the flow of energy and cycling of matter through different trophic levels and between organisms, including humans, and the physical environment;
- 9.56s explain the relationship between the abiotic characteristics of the different biomes and the variations, tolerances, and adaptations of populations or species of plants and animals in those biomes;

Standard IX. The science teacher knows and understands the science content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in life science.

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12 (continued)

Biology (continued)

- 9.57s identify the indigenous plants and animals in an ecosystem and assess their function;
- 9.58s compare and contrast the characteristics of freshwater, brackish, and saltwater ecosystems;
- 9.59s analyze interactions in an ecosystem (e.g., food chains, food webs, food pyramids), including human interactions;
- 9.60s interpret interactions among organisms and viruses exhibiting predation, parasitism, commensalism, and mutualism;
- 9.61s predict how the introduction, removal, or reintroduction of an organism may alter the food chain and affect existing populations in an ecosystem;
- 9.62s analyze the interdependence among organisms in an aquatic environment and the biosphere;
- 9.63s relate carrying capacity to population dynamics;
- 9.64s calculate the exponential growth of populations given various assumptions;
- 9.65s analyze how geographic locales, natural events, diseases, and birth and death rates affect population predictions; and
- 9.66s analyze and evaluate the economic significance and interdependence of components of an environmental system.

Standard X. Teachers of life science are not responsible for this standard.

Standard XI. The science teacher knows unifying concepts and processes that are common to all sciences.

Teacher Knowledge: What Teachers Know

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher knows and understands:

- 11.1k how systems and subsystems can be used as a conceptual framework to organize and unify the common themes of science and technology;
- 11.2k how patterns in observations and data which explain natural phenomena allow predictions to be made;
- 11.3k how the concepts and processes listed below provide a unifying framework across the science disciplines:
- systems, order, and organization;
 - evidence, models, and explanation;
 - change, constancy, and measurements;
 - evolution and equilibrium; and
 - form and function;
- 11.4k properties and patterns of systems can be described in terms of space, time, energy, and matter;
- 11.5k how change and constancy occur in systems;
- 11.6k the complementary nature of form and function in a given system; and
- 11.7k how models are used to represent the natural world and how to evaluate the strengths and limitations of a variety of scientific models (e.g., physical, conceptual, mathematical).

Application: What Teachers Can Do

Teachers of Students in Grades 8–12

The beginning teacher is able to:

- 11.1s apply the systems model to identify and analyze common themes that occur in physical science, life science, and Earth and space science;
- 11.2s analyze a system (e.g., a cell, the ocean, an ideal gas) in terms of cycles, structure, and processes;
- 11.3s analyze the general features of systems (e.g., input, process, output, feedback);
- 11.4s analyze the interactions that occur between the components of a given system or subsystem;
- 11.5s analyze the interactions and interrelationships between various systems and subsystems; and
- 11.6s use the systems model to analyze the concepts of constancy (e.g., conservation of mass, energy, and momentum) and change (e.g., evolution).