

The following document describes the structure and content of the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) for middle school that is administered at the end of eighth grade.

## Standards

The grade 8 MISA uses all the Middle School Performance Expectations (grades 6 through 8) from the Maryland Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Not all performance expectations will appear on a single assessment, but they will be rotated over time so that all performance expectations will be assessed in a regular cycle.

## Sessions

The grade 8 MISA consists of four sections. Each section is forty minutes and consists of two item sets. Sections one, two, and three are used for individual student scores. Section 4 uses a different type of scoring called matrix scoring and is designed to provide additional information about student performance beyond what is collected in sections 1 through 3. Section four is also the only section that contains a set with a simulation.

## Reporting Category

The grade 8 MISA provides performance indicators for the three dimensions of the Next Generation Science Standards. The following table summarizes the disciplinary core idea (DCI) reporting category and identifies the percent of the assessment aligned with each component of that category.

DCI PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PERCENTAGE RANGE
Earth and Space Science	30 to 35%
Life Science	30 to 35%
Physical Science	30 to 35%

The Science and Engineering Practices and the Cross Cutting Concept performance indicators are based on a holistic analysis of the student's performance with each of those dimensions.