

Maryland Integrated Science Assessment Blueprint – Grade 8

This High-Level Blueprint describes the structure and content of the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) for middle school that is administered at the end of the grade band in 8th grade.

Standards

The Grade 8 MISA uses performance expectations (PEs) from the Maryland Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for grades 6-8, including the Engineering Design PEs. Not all PEs will appear on a single assessment, but they will be rotated over time so that all PEs will be assessed in a regular cycle.

Sessions

The table indicates the structure of the Grade 8 MISA by sessions.

MISA Session Structure

Section	Time (minutes)	Item Sets	Scoring	Simulation Sets
1	40	2	Student Score	0
2	40	2	Student Score	0
3	40	2	Student Score	0
4	40	2	Matrix Score	1

Matrix scoring provides additional information about student performance beyond what is collected in sections 1 through 3.

Reporting Category

The tables indicate the breakdown of items on the Grade 8 MISA by reporting category.

Primary Reporting Categories

Reporting Category	Percentage Range
Physical Science Integrated with Science and Engineering Practice and Crosscutting Concepts	30-35%
Life Science Integrated with Science and Engineering Practice and Crosscutting Concepts	30-35%
Earth and space Science Integrated with Science and Engineering Practice and Crosscutting Concepts	30-35%