Texas STAAR

Middle School School Studies Essence Statements (2026)

Matter and Energy	1	The student understands that matter can be classified according to its properties and matter is conserved in chemical changes that occur within closed systems. (Readiness Standard) 8.6
	2	The student distinguishes between elements and compounds, classifies changes in matter, and understands the properties of solutions. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) 7.6
	3	The student knows that matter is made of atoms, can be classified according to its properties, and can undergo changes. (Supporting Standard) 6.6
Force, Motion, and Energy	1	The student understands the relationship between force and motion within systems. (Readiness Standard) 8.7
	2	The student describes the cause-and-effect relationship between force and motion. (Supporting Standard) 7.7
	3	The student knows the nature of forces and their role in systems that experience stability or change. (Supporting Standard) 6.7
	4	The student knows how energy is transferred through waves. (Supporting Standard) 8.8
	5	The student understands the behavior of thermal energy as it flows into and out of systems. (Supporting Standard) 7.8
	6	The student knows that the total energy in systems is conserved through energy transfers and transformations. (Supporting Standard) 6.8
Earth and Space	1	The student describes the characteristics of the universe and the relative scale of its components. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) 8.9
	2	The student understands the patterns of movement, organization, and characteristics of components of our solar system. (Supporting Standard) 7.9
	3	The student models the cyclical movements of the Sun, Earth, and Moon and describes their effects. (Supporting Standard) 6.9

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	4 **The student knows that interactions between Earth, ocean, and weather systems impact climate. (Readiness and Supporting Standard)** 8.10
	5 **The student understands the cause and effects of plate tectonics. (Readiness and Supporting Standard)** 7.10
	6 **The student understands the rock cycle and the structure of Earth. (Supporting Standard)** 6.10
	7 **The student understands how human activity can impact the hydrosphere. (Supporting Standard)** 7.11
Organisms and Environments	1 **The student understands stability and change in populations and ecosystems. (Readiness and Supporting Standard)** 8.12
	2 **The student understands that ecosystems are dependent upon the cycling of matter and the flow of energy. (Supporting Standard)** 7.12
	3 **The student knows that interdependence occurs between living systems and the environment. (Supporting Standard)** 6.12
	4 **The student knows how cell functions support the health of an organism and how adaptation and variation relate to survival. (Readiness and Supporting Standard)** 8.13
	5 **The student knows how systems are organized and function to support the health of an organism and how traits are inherited. (Supporting Standard)** 7.13
	6 **The student knows that organisms have an organizational structure and variations can influence survival of populations. (Supporting Standard)** 6.13