

# HOW ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL DESCRIPTORS CAN SUPPORT CLASS INSTRUCTION

## Linking Assessment and Classroom Instruction

Alaska administers two statewide summative assessments: AK STAR and the Alaska Science Assessment. Each of these assessments has a set of grade level Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs). ALDs define the knowledge and skills students are expected to demonstrate at each achievement level and is tied to specific grade level standards. They translate assessment results into categories such as: Advanced, Proficient, Approaching Proficient, and Needs Support and can act as a bridge between standards and assessment.

## How ALDs can support classroom instruction

- **Support instruction and standards alignment:** ALDs provide a clear roadmap to ensure classroom teaching is in sync with state standards and expectations.
- **Curriculum clarity:** By referencing ALDs, teachers gain insight into what Proficient looks like on statewide assessments, helping validate and refine their curriculum.
- **Define learning targets:** ALDs offer ready-made benchmarks that teachers can use to set meaningful, standards-based learning goals for students.
- **Spot and address skill gaps:** When students score Needs Support, ALDs help teachers pinpoint missing skills by comparing them to Proficient descriptors—making targeted instruction easier.
- **Strengthen collaboration:** ALDs serve as a shared language for teachers to co-plan interventions, enrichments, and instructional strategies across grade levels or subjects.
- **Support growth planning:** Teachers can use the next ALD level to set realistic, standards-aligned growth goals for students, guiding progress over time.

For more information about statewide assessments or ALD's contact the Standards Assessment Team at the Department of Education and Early Development.



Standards and Assessment



AKSTAR ALDs



AK Science Assessment ALDs