

Course Overview	Texas 8th grade science brings together key ideas from earlier grades as students explore how matter and energy behave, how forces and motion explain changes, and how Earth and space systems are connected. Students use data, models, and evidence to analyze patterns, explain phenomena, and design solutions while strengthening their ability to think critically and communicate scientifically. This course equips students to understand and explain the world around them and prepares them for high school science and real-world decision making, as it is the final opportunity for many students to engage deeply with Earth and space science concepts before transitioning to more specialized high school courses.
Course Standards	8th Grade TEKS
Instructional Materials	IDEA 8 th Grade Science Curriculum is the approved curriculum. Educational technology such as Explore Learning Gizmos and PhET simulations are embedded into the core curriculum. Texas McGraw Hill textbook is used as a supplemental resource. Sirius Education Solutions is used during the STAAR Success Unit.

Scope & Sequence

Units/Modules & Instructional Days	Assessments & Scanning Deadlines	Standards
Unit 1: Investigating Chemical Changes 16 days	TX_SCI_8thScience_F26_UE1 Scanning Deadline: 9/18/26	TEKS: 8.6(A), 8.6(B), 8.6(E), 7.6(B), 7.6(C), 6.8 (B), 6.6(C), 6.6(D), and 6.6(E)
Unit 2: Force and Motion 18 days	TX_SCI_8thScience_F26_UE2 Scanning Deadline: 10/16/26	TEKS: 8.7(A), 8.7(B), 7.7(A), 7.7(B), 7.7(C), 6.7(A), 6.7(B), and 6.8(B)
Unit 3: Energy and Waves 12 days	TX_SCI_8thScience_F26_UE3 Scanning Deadline: 11/4/26	TEKS: 8.8(A), 8.8(B), 7.8(A), 7.8(C), and 6.8(C)
Unit 4: The Universe 14 days	TX_SCI_8thScience_F26_UE4 Scanning Deadline: 12/1/26	TEKS: 8.9(A), 8.9(B), 8.9(C), 7.9(B), 6.9(A), and 6.9(B)
Unit 5: Changing Earth 8 days	No Assessment - Assessed on Semester Exam	TEKS: 7.10(A), 7.10(B), and 6.10(B)
Semester Exam: December 12-14, 2026, Scanning Deadline: December 18, 2026		
Unit 6: Earth's Water 4 days	No Assessment	TEKS: 7.11(A) and 7.11(B)
Unit 7: Global Weather Systems 11 Days	TX_SCI_8thScience_S27_UE7 Scanning Deadline: 1/27/2027	TEKS: 8.10(A), 8.10(B), and 8.10(C)
Unit 8: Cells to Organisms 9 Days	TX_SCI_8thScience_S27_UE8 Scanning Deadline: 2/5/2027	TEKS: 8.13(A), 7.13(A), and 6.13(A)
Unit 9: Traits of Organisms 10 Days	TX_SCI_8thScience_S27_UE9 Scanning Deadline: 2/25/2027	TEKS: 8.13(B), 8.13(C), 7.13(C), and 7.13(D)
Unit 10: Investigating Ecosystems 9 Days	No Assessment - Assessed on IA	TEKS: 8.12(A), 8.12(B), 8.12(C), 7.12(A), 6.8(B), and 6.12(A)
IA Exam Window: March 1 - 5, 2027		
STAAR Success 14 Days	No Assessment	All of the tested TEKS listed above are reviewed as needed.
8th Grade STAAR Exam Window: April 12 - 23, 2027		
Unit 11: Properties of Matter 7 Days	TX_SCI_8thScience_S27_UE11 Scanning Deadline: 5/7/27	TEKS: 8.6(C), and 8.6(D)
Unit 12: Climate Change 7 Days	No Assessment – Research Project	TEKS: 8.11(A), 8.11(B), and 8.11(C)

Note: The 7th and 6th Grade TEKS listed are TEKS that are assessed on the 8th grade STAAR and are reviewed in context with the vertically aligned 8th grade TEKS.

TEKS Alignment

Instruction in this course is aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) as adopted by the State Board of Education and implemented in accordance with Texas Education Code Chapter 28.

Instructional Materials

Primary Texts (if applicable)

Supplemental instructional materials may be used to support instruction. Supplemental materials do not replace board-approved core instructional materials.

Additional information regarding instructional programs, assessments, and parent access to instructional materials is available on the district website.

Instructional Expectations

Instruction is delivered using board-approved instructional materials and aligned to the scope and sequence outlined above. Teachers are expected to ensure all required standards are taught within the course timeframe.

Assessment Overview

Student learning is monitored through formative and summative assessments aligned to course standards. Assessment results are used to inform instruction and student supports. Students participate in required state assessments when applicable.