Physical Science – Understanding Your Child's Performance: Below is a summary of skills and knowledge students must demonstrate to achieve each performance level. A student should demonstrate mastery of knowledge and skills within his/her achievement level *as well as* all content and skills that precede it. For example, a Proficient Learner should also possess the knowledge and skills of a Developing Learner *and* a Beginning Learner.

	Beginning Learner	Developing Learner	Proficient Learner	Distinguished Learner
End-of-Course Physical Science	In general, your child can: • recognize the differences between atoms and molecules • locate metals, nonmetals, and metalloids in the Periodic Table of Elements • describe the movement of particles in solids, liquids, gases, and plasmas • describe the Law of Conservation of Matter • explain the parts and characteristics of waves • describe energy transformations • identify simple machines that make work easier • determine what produces electricity • recognize that data provides support for scientific claims	In general, your child can: • recognize and label the structure of an atom • recognize that the Periodic Table of Elements arranges elements by properties • recognize similarities and differences among solids, liquids, gases, and plasmas • describe the three types of energy transfer (radiation, conduction, and convection) • recognize factors that affect the rate at which objects dissolve • identify energy transformations • describe electromagnetic and mechanical waves • use data to support scientific claims	In general, your child can: • examine the structure of an atom • recognize different atomic bonds • explain radioactive decay • recognize the forces that affect gases • use math to analyze data • use the Periodic Table of Elements to predict properties of elements • apply the Law of Conservation of Matter in a chemical reaction • compare acids and bases • recognize reflection, refraction, interference, and diffraction • apply Newton's three laws of motion to everyday situations • identify AC and DC currents • describe an electromagnet	In general, your child can: • describe nuclear energy • describe the elements of radiation • compare solutions in terms of concentration and conductivity • describe molecular motion • explain magnetism and its relationship to the movement of electrical charges • compare and contrast characteristics of electromagnetic and mechanical (sound) waves • recognize the relationship between specific heat capacity and change in temperature • determine which machine would have the greatest advantage • calculate the velocity of a falling object • predict outcomes given series and parallel circuits