

# RISE High School Science Assessment Guide

## What Science Educators Need to Know

Beginning with the 2026–27 school year, Utah is transitioning high school assessments from Utah Aspire Plus to RISE. This table outlines the key differences between the two assessments.

| Aspire Plus                                                                                                                                                                         | RISE                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fixed-form Test</li><li>• Same Questions for All Students</li><li>• Timed</li><li>• Grade-based</li><li>• College Readiness Focus</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computer-adaptive</li><li>• Questions Adjust to Student Performance</li><li>• Untimed</li><li>• Course-based</li><li>• Utah Core Standards Mastery Focus</li></ul> |

### High School Courses that Roster for RISE Assessments

Students will take assessments aligned to the course they are enrolled in, not their grade level.

#### Earth & Space Science Test:

- Earth Science
- Honors Earth Science
- Earth Science SPED

#### Chemistry Test:

- Chemistry
- Honors Chemistry
- CE Chemistry 1010 with SEEd

#### Biology Test:

- Biology
- Honors Biology
- Biology – Agricultural Science
- AP Biology
- IB Biology
- CE Biology 1010 with SEEd
- Biology SPED

#### Physics Test:

- Physics
- Honors Physics
- IB Physics
- CE Physics 1010 with SEEd

The RISE science assessment blueprints are available on the [RISE portal](#).



## RISE Science Timeline

| Date          | Event                                                                 |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 2027 | A few HS science benchmarks available, with more added every year     |
| Spring 2027   | First administration of High School Science RISE - no scores provided |
| Summer 2027   | Standard Setting held to determine cut scores                         |
| Fall 2027     | High School Science scores released                                   |
| Spring 2028   | Automated scoring implemented for science                             |

## How to Prepare Students

### Prepare for Transfer, Not Memorization

RISE measures how well students can apply what they know.

#### Align Instruction

- Focus on Utah Core Science Standards.
- Use tasks and assessments that reflect the style, rigor, and cognitive demand of the three-dimensional science standards.

#### Build transferable skills by helping students:

- **Apply** knowledge in new and unfamiliar situations.
- **Explain** and justify their thinking.
- **Connect** concepts across lessons and disciplines.
- **Persevere** through challenging problems.
- **Reflect** on mistakes and adjust their thinking.

For any questions, please contact the Secondary Science Assessment Specialist Sam Tinkey at: [samantha.tinkey@schools.utah.gov](mailto:samantha.tinkey@schools.utah.gov)