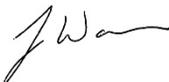




ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, OFFICE OF STATE ASSESSMENT
89 Washington Avenue, Room 775 EBA
Albany, New York 12234

May 2024

To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools
Charter School Leaders
Science Teachers and Coordinators

From: Zachary Warner 

Subject: Investigations for the Regents Examinations in Earth and Space Sciences and Life Science:
Biology Now Available

The Investigations for the Regents Examinations in Earth and Space Sciences and Life Science: Biology described in the earlier [planning memo](#) are now available. The Investigations are hands-on laboratory experiences that prepare students for the Regents Examinations measuring the [NYS P-12 Science Learning Standards](#) that are scheduled to be first administered June 2025. Principals may access and download the files using the ordering portal through which they make exam requests (see Appendix for detailed information on downloading the Investigations).

Each of the Investigations includes the following components: Teacher Materials (Investigation Overview, Teacher Directions – with specific materials list, Answer/Scoring Key), Student Directions, Student Answer Packets, Scoring Rubric, and, for certain Investigations, Supplemental Materials. It is important that printer settings such as *full*, *actual size*, or *100%* are used when printing any of the Investigation components to ensure their accuracy. The Student Directions and the Student Answer Packet must be duplicated to provide a copy for each student. The Department is finalizing copies of the Student Directions and Student Answer Packets in alternate languages and hard copies in Unified English Braille. These will be made available in the coming months. The translated editions will be available through the same portal as the English editions and Braille copies may be requested by contacting the Office of State Assessment.

Successful completion of the Investigations for the course will be required for admission to the respective Regents Examination. The definition of successful completion is left to local discretion. Rubrics, while optional, are provided with each Investigation and provide a useful tool to assess where individual students are on a continuum of skills and knowledge embedded in the Performance Expectation (PE). As a reminder, the Investigations are designed to be embedded into instruction and can be offered any time prior to the Regents Examination. This may be when a particular PE assessed within each Investigation is covered in the course or at another time of the teacher's choosing.

The Investigations for Earth and Space Sciences and the primary PE measured by each are:

- Space Systems: Unearthing Mars – A Historical Perspective (PE: HS-ESS1-4)
- Earth's Systems: The Ripple Effect – The Work of Water Across New York State Surfaces (PE: HS-ESS2-5)
- Weather and Climate: The Sky is the Limit – Decoding Weather Conditions (PE: HS-ESS2-8)

The Investigations for Life Science: Biology and the primary PE(s) measured by each are:

- Structure and Function: Balancing Act – Exploring Feedback and Homeostasis (PE: HS-LS1-3)
- Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Unraveling the Mystery of Lactose Tolerance¹ (PE: HS-LS3-3 & HS-LS1-1)
- Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: For the Birds – Designing Solutions (PE: HS-LS-2-7)

The Investigations provide authentic, hands-on scientific and engineering experiences that allow students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills from the Learning Standards. However, the Investigations themselves are not considered a State assessment; rather, they are locally administered, curriculum-embedded, performance-based tasks that are one of the multiple components of the assessment strategy for high school science. The Investigations help prepare students for the three-dimensional scientific reasoning they will need to perform on the Regents Examination and may be counted as part of the minimum 1200 minutes of hands-on laboratory experiences required under Part 100 of the Commissioner’s Regulations (up to the intended maximum times provided in the Teacher Materials for each Investigation). Students should record all data and answers in the Student Answer Packets which must be retained by the school as evidence of the student’s successful completion of the activity and should be kept on file for at least six months following the date of the Regents Examination. A copy of these packets may be provided to the student in order to prepare for the exam.

The Investigations are intended for use by New York State teachers in the classroom. Teachers may make the student materials available to their classes in printed or electronic form but may not post or otherwise release the materials in a public domain. Teachers are strongly encouraged to review each Investigation now that the files are available. This will ensure time to collect the necessary materials and plan appropriate classroom setup. Like any other classroom activity, students must be provided with supports and accommodations as detailed in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan while completing the Investigations.

Please contact the Office of State Assessment at emscassessinfo@nysed.gov with questions about the Investigations.

¹ In the planning memo, this Investigation was titled *Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Unraveling the Mystery of Lactose Intolerance*

**The University of the State of New York
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

Office of State Assessment
Albany, New York 12234

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING AND DOWNLOADING
THE REQUIRED ELEMENTARY-, INTERMEDIATE-, AND SECONDARY-LEVEL
SCIENCE INVESTIGATIONS**

The required Investigations for Elementary-, Intermediate-, and Secondary-Level Science (ELS, ILS, and SLS, respectively) are available for schools to download in digital format only as Portable Document Files (PDFs) via the [free Adobe Acrobat Reader](#), either as stand-alone files or in a zipped collection. Digital copies of the Student Directions and Student Answer Packets in alternate languages and hard copies of these materials in Unified English Braille may be requested by contacting the Office of State Assessment (OSA) at emscassessinfo@nysed.gov.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- In order to access the required Elementary-, Intermediate-, and Secondary-Level Science Investigations, you must have access to the [NYSED Business Application Portal](#) and the Office of State Assessment (OSA) Online Examination Request System. Access to the request system is typically only available to the school principal or designated testing coordinator.
- If you do not have access to the OSA Online Examination Request System, please contact your school, district administrator, or designated testing coordinator for assistance in accessing and downloading these files.
- Within the Online Examination Request System, be sure to use the “Previous Page” button located at the bottom of each web page to return to the Science Investigations landing page. Do not use your browser’s forward and back buttons. Navigation within the Online Examination Request System is limited.

1. Go to the [NYSED Business Application Portal \(https://portal.nysed.gov\)](https://portal.nysed.gov) and click the “Log In” button in the upper-right corner of the screen. Enter your username and password (case-sensitive).

Usernames and Passwords

Principals must have a username and password to enter their school’s examination requests online. If the principal was the same during the 2023–24 school year, the expectation is that they have previously been issued a valid username and password. Principals should use those credentials to log into the Online Examination Request System. Telephone examination requests will not be accepted.

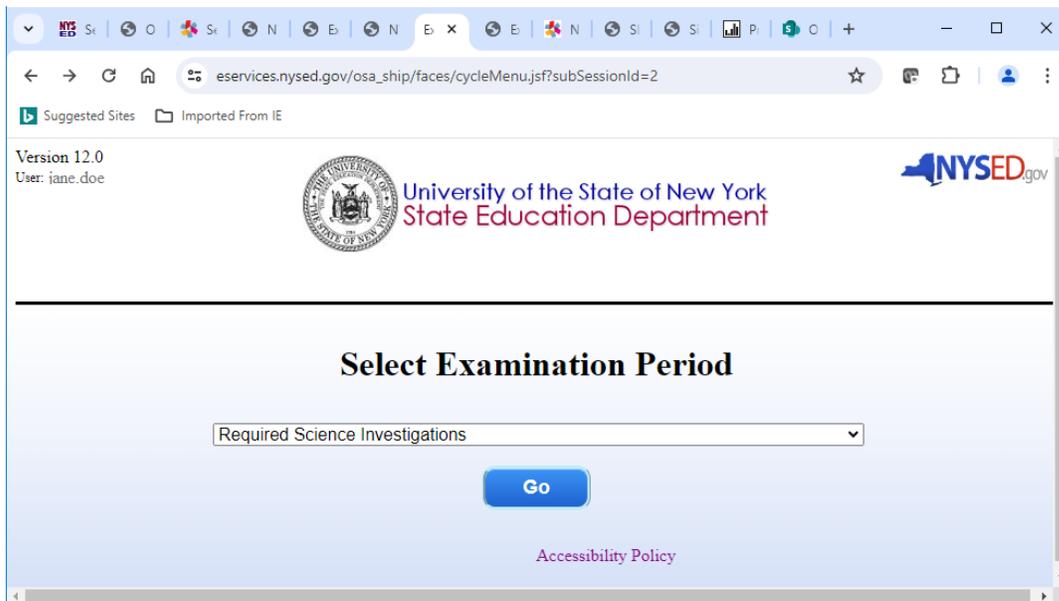
If the principal was the same during the 2023–24 school year, but has forgotten or needs to reset their password, they should access the “Reset Password” utility available at <https://portal.nysed.gov>.

If the principal is new and does not have a valid username and password, determine which of the following situations applies:

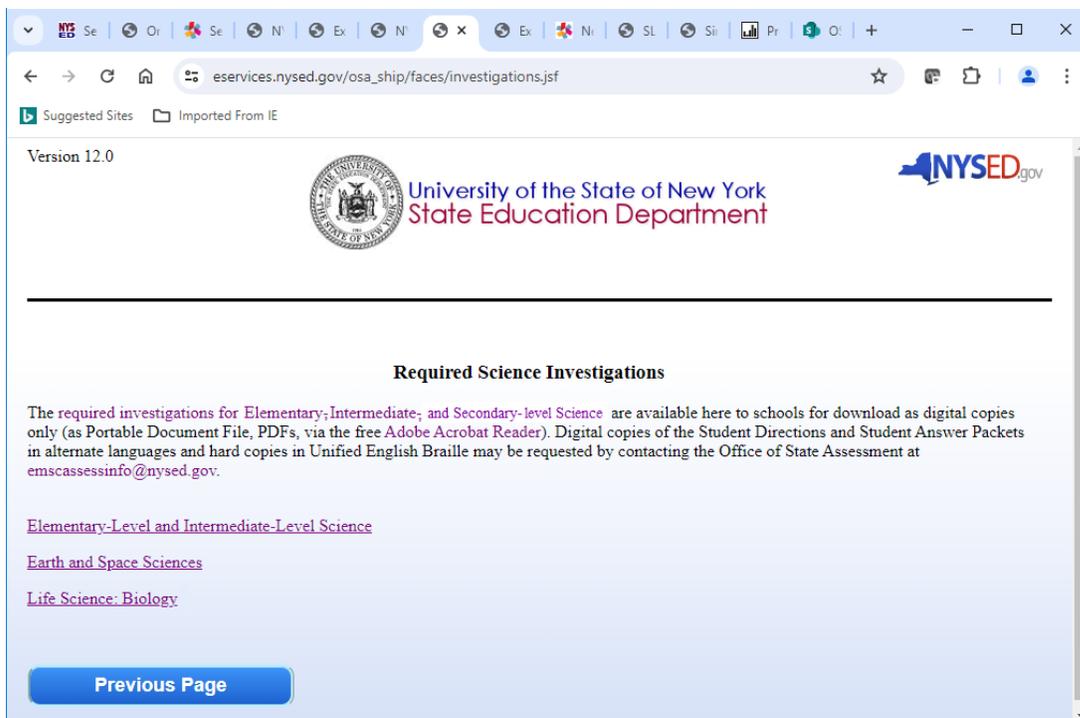
- **Principals of New York City Public Schools** should contact their Borough Assessment Implementation Director (BAID) at their Borough Assessment Office (BAO).
- **Principals of Public Schools or BOCES Programs Located Outside of New York City** should contact their School Superintendent or Delegated Administrator to obtain their username and password.
- **Principals of Religious, Independent, and Charter Schools** should contact the Department’s Delegated Account System (SEDDAS) [Help Desk](#) to obtain their username and password. If the principal is new and has not yet done so, they must notify the Department’s Office of Information and Reporting Services via email to datasupport@nysed.gov that they are the new principal.

All questions regarding usernames and passwords for public schools **must** be directed to your Delegated Administrator in your local school district and, for religious, independent, and charter schools, the SEDDAS [Help Desk](#).

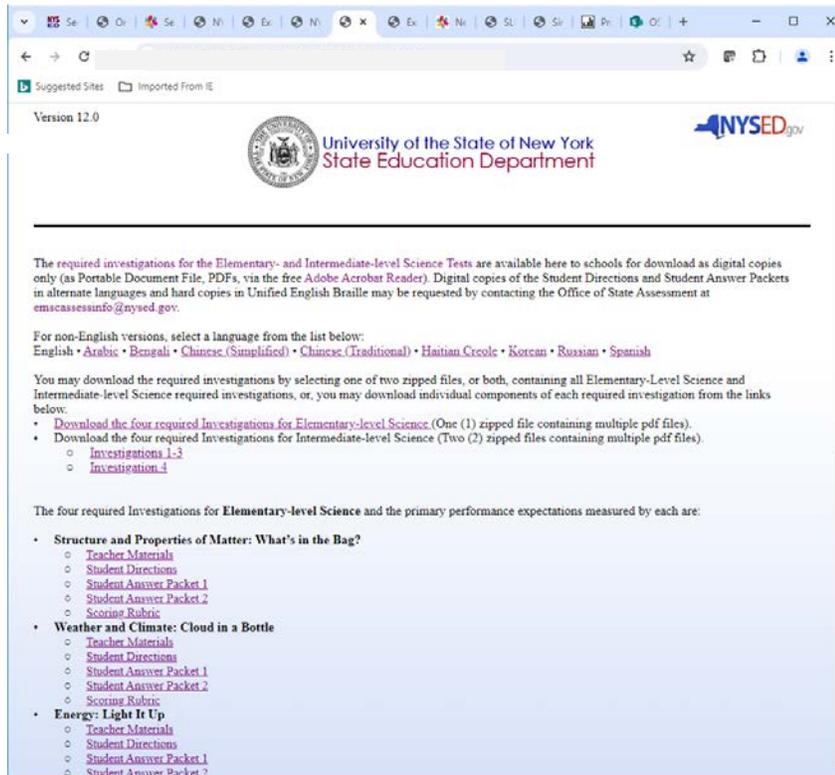
2. You will then be taken back to the [NYSED Business Application Portal](#) web page.
 - a. Under the heading *My Applications*, located toward the top of this page, click on “Examination Request System.”
3. The *Request Agreement* page will appear; click “Accept” to indicate your agreement and continue.
4. Under *Select Examination Period*, choose “Required Science Investigations” from the drop-down menu and click “Go.”
 - a. **Note:** This step has been updated since the 2022 introduction of the ELS and ILS Investigations. In order to select any of the available Science Investigation materials, you *must* now select “Required Science Investigations” during this step.



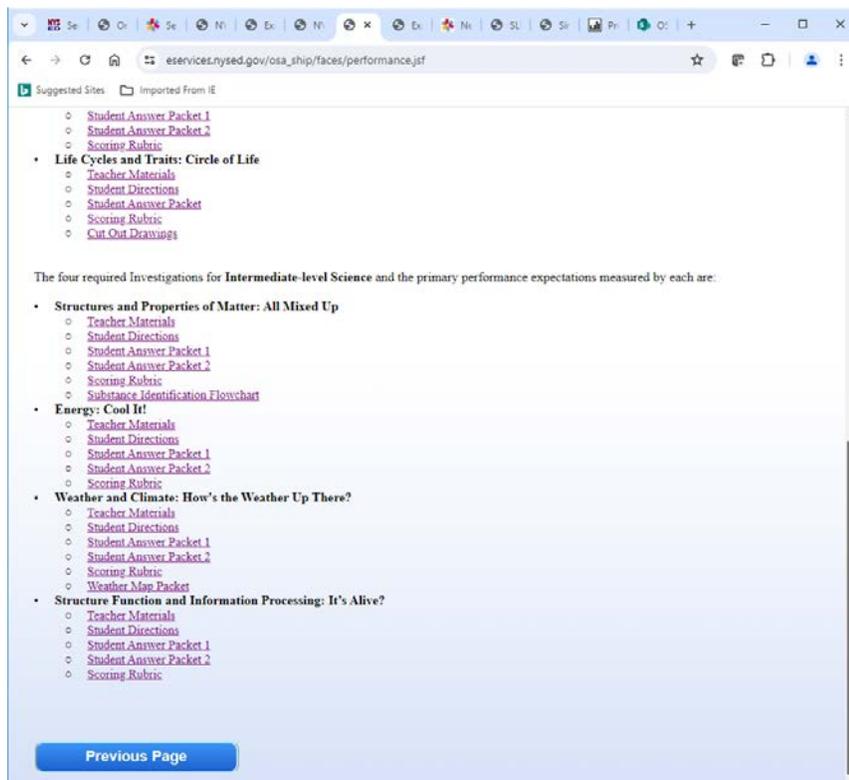
5. The “Required Science Investigations” landing page will appear. In the center of the page, there are three weblinks that, when selected, allow access to the respective ELS, ILS, or SLS Investigations (at this time, *Earth and Space Sciences* and *Life Science: Biology* are available for SLS). Clicking the “Previous Page” button will return you to the “Select Examination Period” page.”



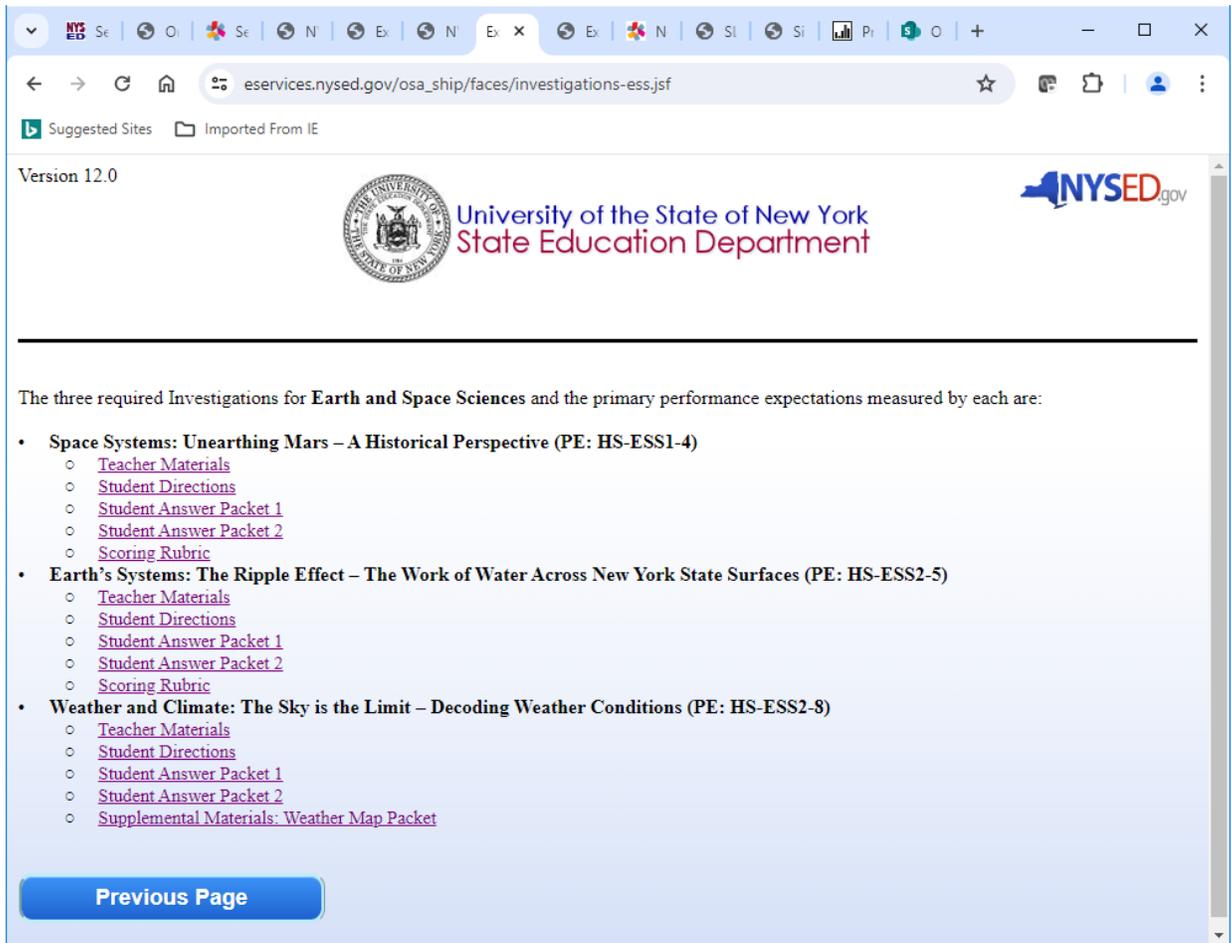
6. By selecting *Elementary-Level and Intermediate-Level Science* from the Required Science Investigations landing page, you will be presented a new page with multiple links that provide the options to download each file individually, by investigation, or as a complete set of ELS or ILS Investigations.
- a. Choose which files you wish to download by clicking on the corresponding link to open them, or by right-clicking on the desired file link to save the file to your computer.



- b. When you are finished downloading all desired files from this page, click the “Previous Page” button at the bottom of the page. You will then be returned to the Required Science Investigations landing page.



7. By selecting *Earth and Space Sciences* from the Required Science Investigations landing page, you will be presented a new page with multiple links that provide the options to download these SLS files individually, by investigation.
- a. Choose which files you wish to download by clicking on the corresponding link to open them, or by right-clicking on the desired file link to save the file to your computer.



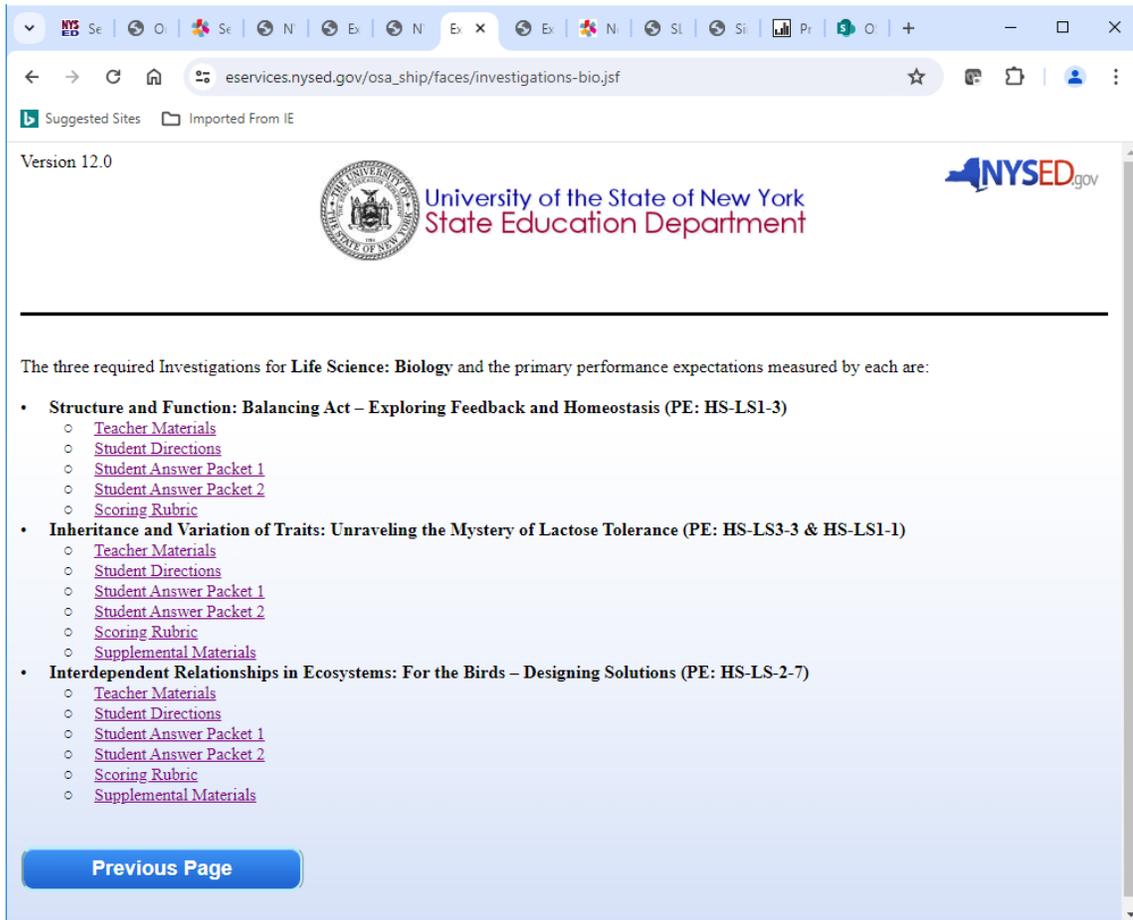
The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the URL `eservices.nysed.gov/osa_ship/faces/investigations-ess.jsf`. The page header includes the NYSED logo and the text "University of the State of New York State Education Department". Below the header, the text reads: "The three required Investigations for **Earth and Space Sciences** and the primary performance expectations measured by each are:

- **Space Systems: Unearthing Mars – A Historical Perspective (PE: HS-ESS1-4)**
 - [Teacher Materials](#)
 - [Student Directions](#)
 - [Student Answer Packet 1](#)
 - [Student Answer Packet 2](#)
 - [Scoring Rubric](#)
- **Earth's Systems: The Ripple Effect – The Work of Water Across New York State Surfaces (PE: HS-ESS2-5)**
 - [Teacher Materials](#)
 - [Student Directions](#)
 - [Student Answer Packet 1](#)
 - [Student Answer Packet 2](#)
 - [Scoring Rubric](#)
- **Weather and Climate: The Sky is the Limit – Decoding Weather Conditions (PE: HS-ESS2-8)**
 - [Teacher Materials](#)
 - [Student Directions](#)
 - [Student Answer Packet 1](#)
 - [Student Answer Packet 2](#)
 - [Supplemental Materials: Weather Map Packet](#)

At the bottom of the page, there is a blue button labeled "Previous Page".

- b. When you are finished downloading all desired files from this page, click the "Previous Page" button at the bottom of the page. You will then be returned to the Required Science Investigations landing page.

8. By selecting *Life Science: Biology* from the Required Science Investigations landing page, you will be presented a new page with multiple links that provide the options to download these SLS files individually, by investigation.
- a. Choose which files you wish to download by clicking on the corresponding link to open them, or by right-clicking on the desired file link to save the file to your computer.



- b. When you are finished downloading all desired files from this page, click the “Previous Page” button at the bottom of the page. You will then be returned to the Required Science Investigations landing page.
9. Once you have completed your viewing and/or downloading of your selected Required Science Investigations, you may exit the Online Examination Request System by logging out or closing your browser.

Any questions about the ELS, ILS, and/or SLS Investigations may be directed to emscassessinfo@nysed.gov.