connections to standards in pltw launch
pltw curriculum is designed to empower students to thrive in an evolving world. as a part of the design process when developing and updating our curriculum, we focus on connections to a variety of standards. this pltw launch module connects to standards in the following:

- next generation science standards
- computer science teachers association k-12 computer science standards
- common core state standards english language arts - kindergarten
- common core state standards mathematics - kindergarten

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From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

K-LS1-1
Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.

Earth’s Systems

K-ESS2-2
Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the environment to meet their needs.

Earth and Human Activity

K-ESS3-1
Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants and animals (including humans) and the places they live.

K-ESS3-3
Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment.

Engineering Design

K-2-ETS1-1
Ask questions, make observations, and gather information about a situation people want to change to define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool.

K-2-ETS1-2
Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a given problem.

K-2-ETS1-3
Analyze data from tests of two objects designed to solve the same problem to compare the strengths and weaknesses of how each performs.

Science and Engineering Practices: Asking Questions and Defining Problems

Asking questions and defining problems in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to simple descriptive questions that can be tested.
Science and Engineering Practices: Developing and Using Models
Modeling in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to include using and developing models (i.e., diagram, drawing, physical replica, diorama, dramatization, or storyboard) that represent concrete events or design solutions.

- Develop and/or use a model to represent amounts, relationships, relative scales (bigger, smaller), and/or patterns in the natural and designed world(s).

Science and Engineering Practices: Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to simple investigations, based on fair tests, which provide data to support explanations or design solutions.

Science and Engineering Practices: Analyzing and Interpreting Data
Analyzing data in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to collecting, recording, and sharing observations.

- Use observations (firsthand or from media) to describe patterns and/or relationships in the natural and designed world(s) in order to answer scientific questions and solve problems.

Science and Engineering Practices: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
Constructing explanations and designing solutions in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to the use of evidence and ideas in constructing evidence-based accounts of natural phenomena and designing solutions.

Science and Engineering Practices: Engaging in Argument from Evidence
Engaging in argument from evidence in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to comparing ideas and representations about the natural and designed world(s).

- Construct an argument with evidence to support a claim.

Science and Engineering Practices: Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information
Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in K–2 builds on prior experiences and uses observations and texts to communicate new information.

- Communicate information or design ideas and/or solutions with others in oral and/or written forms using models, drawings, writing, or numbers that provide detail about scientific ideas, practices, and/or design ideas.
Next Generation Science Standards

Disciplinary Core Ideas (K-2)

Life Science


- All animals need food in order to live and grow. They obtain their food from plants or from other animals. Plants need water and light to live and grow.

Earth and Space Science

ESS2.E Biogeology

- Plants and animals can change their environment.

ESS3.A Natural Resources

- Living things need water, air, and resources from the land, and they live in places that have the things they need. Humans use natural resources for everything they do.

ESS3.C Human Impacts on Earth Systems

- Things that people do to live comfortably can affect the world around them. But they can make choices that reduce their impacts on the land, water, air, and other living things.

Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

ETS1.A Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems

- Asking questions, making observations, and gathering information are helpful in thinking about problems.

ETS1.B Developing Possible Solutions

- Designs can be conveyed through sketches, drawings, or physical models. These representations are useful in communicating ideas for a problem's solutions to other people.

ETS1.C Optimizing the Design Solution

- Because there is always more than one possible solution to a problem, it is useful to compare and test designs.

Crosscutting Concepts (K-2)

Patterns – Observed patterns in nature guide organization and classification and prompt questions about relationships and causes underlying them.

- Patterns in the natural and human designed world can be observed, used to describe phenomena, and used as evidence.
Next Generation Science Standards

Cause and Effect: Mechanism and Prediction – Events have causes, sometimes simple, sometimes multifaceted. Deciphering causal relationships, and the mechanisms by which they are mediated, is a major activity of science and engineering.

- Events have causes that generate observable patterns.

Systems and System Models – A system is an organized group of related objects or components; models can be used for understanding and predicting the behavior of systems.

- Systems in the natural and designed world have parts that work together.

Connections to Nature of Science (K-2)
Science Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence

- Scientists look for patterns and order when making observations about the world.
In Spring 2023 PLTW submitted all necessary documentation required by the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) for a crosswalk review of our Launch and Gateway curricula by the CSTA Standards Review Team. While we anticipate approval and validation by CSTA, the review is pending.

Impacts of Computing

Social Interactions

1A-IC-17

Work respectfully and responsibly with others online.

Safety Law & Ethics

1A-IC-18

Keep login information private, and log off of devices appropriately.
Common Core State Standards English Language Arts - Kindergarten

Literature Standards
Key Ideas and Details

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3
With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.

Reading Standards for Informational Text
Key Ideas and Details

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.1
With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.2
With prompting and support, identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.

Language Arts Writing Standards
Text Types and Purposes

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2
Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.7
Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of books by a favorite author and express opinions about them).

Language Arts Speaking and Listening Standards
Comprehension and Collaboration

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.1
Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.2
Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.4
Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail.

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CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.5

Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.

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Counting and Cardinality

Know number names and the count sequence.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.CC.A.1
Count to 100 by ones and by tens.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.CC.A.3
Write numbers from 0 to 20. Represent a number of objects with a written numeral 0-20 (with 0 representing a count of no objects).

Count to tell the number of objects.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.CC.B.5
Count to answer “how many?” questions about as many as 20 things arranged in a line, a rectangular array, or a circle, or as many as 10 things in a scattered configuration; given a number from 1–20, count out that many objects.

Measurement and Data

Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.MD.B.3
Classify objects into given categories; count the numbers of objects in each category and sort the categories by count.

Mathematical Practices

CCSS.MATH.PRACTICE.MP1
Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

CCSS.MATH.PRACTICE.MP3
Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
References

