

“Science Performance  
Assessments:  
Opportunities for Blind and Visually  
Impaired Youth to Show What  
They Know”

CCSSO National Conference on Student  
Assessment

June 2008

Orlando, Florida



# The Question...

- How do blind and visually impaired students show what they know?
  - Interviewed blind scientists
  - How did they learn science?
  - What hurdles did they face?
  - Did they do experiments? What accommodations did they receive?



# Informal Survey of States

- Emailed ASES SCASS members asking if their states had performance-based Science assessments
- Several indicated that they had performance tasks on their Alternate Assessments based on Alternate Achievement Standards (AA-AAS)
- Very few indicated they had a performance based assessment for grade level achievement and content.



# New Science Testing for Middle and High Schools Across the Nation: Implications for Students with Disabilities

Christopher Rogers, Melissa Crone & Laurene Christensen  
NCEO

- In school year 2007-2008, NCLB requires states to report on results of state science testing
- States are at different points in the policy process on their science assessments initiatives

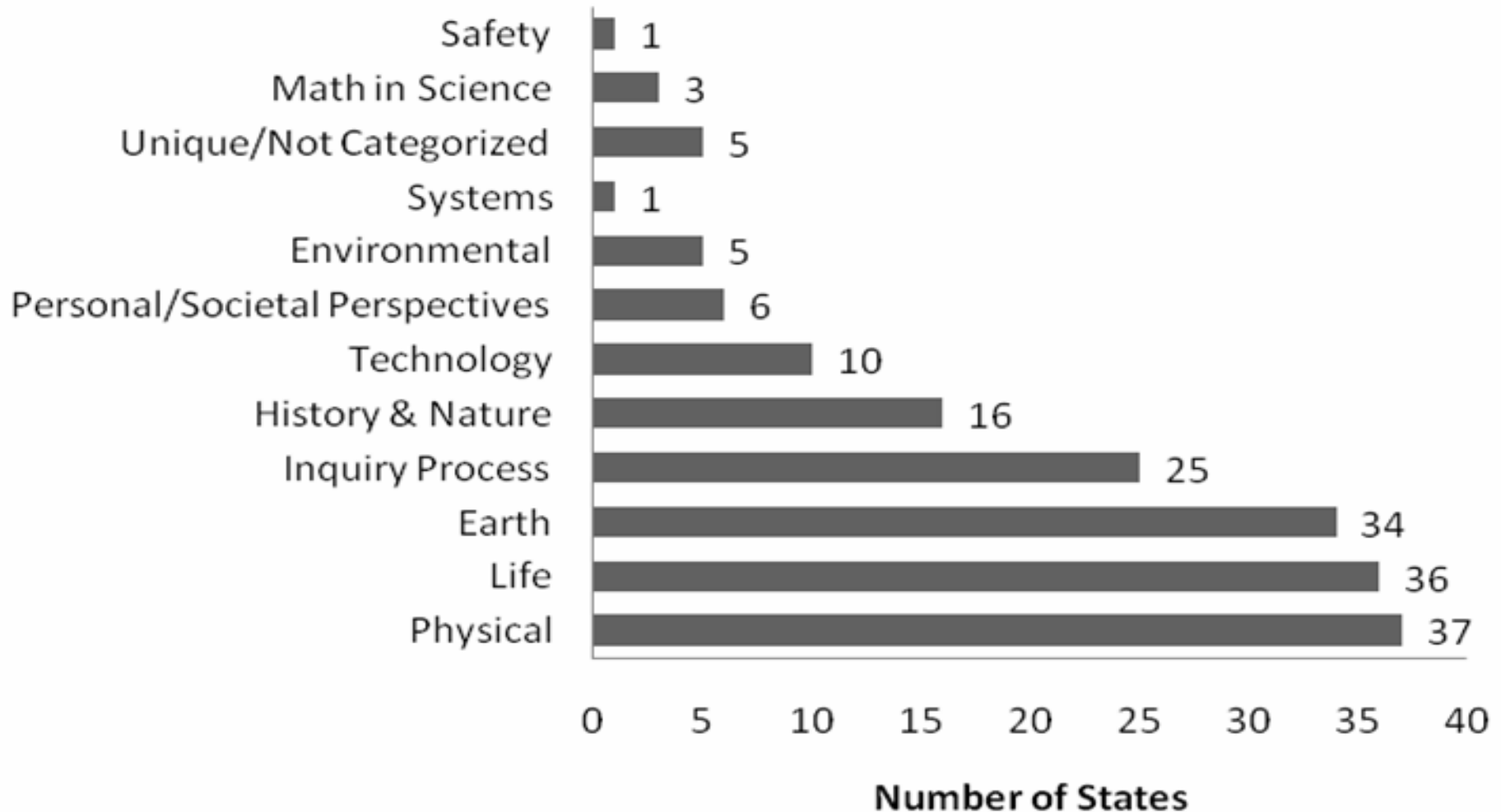


# NCEO reviewed Item Specification Documents January- March 2008

1. What comprises the content of science assessments?
2. What are the items' response formats?
3. What are the accommodations for students with disabilities helping them participate in the statewide testing?



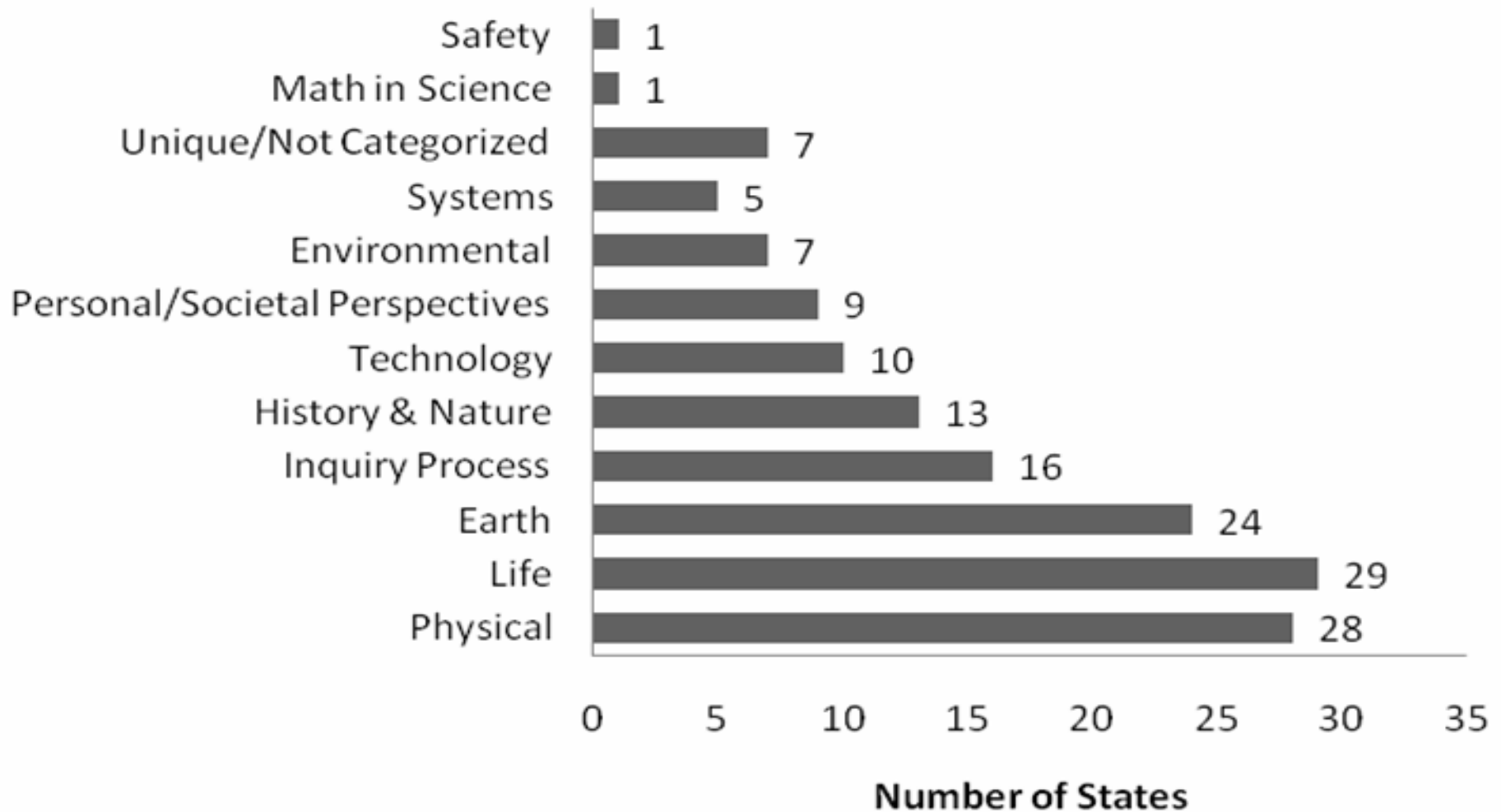
# Middle School Science Categories



**National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO)**



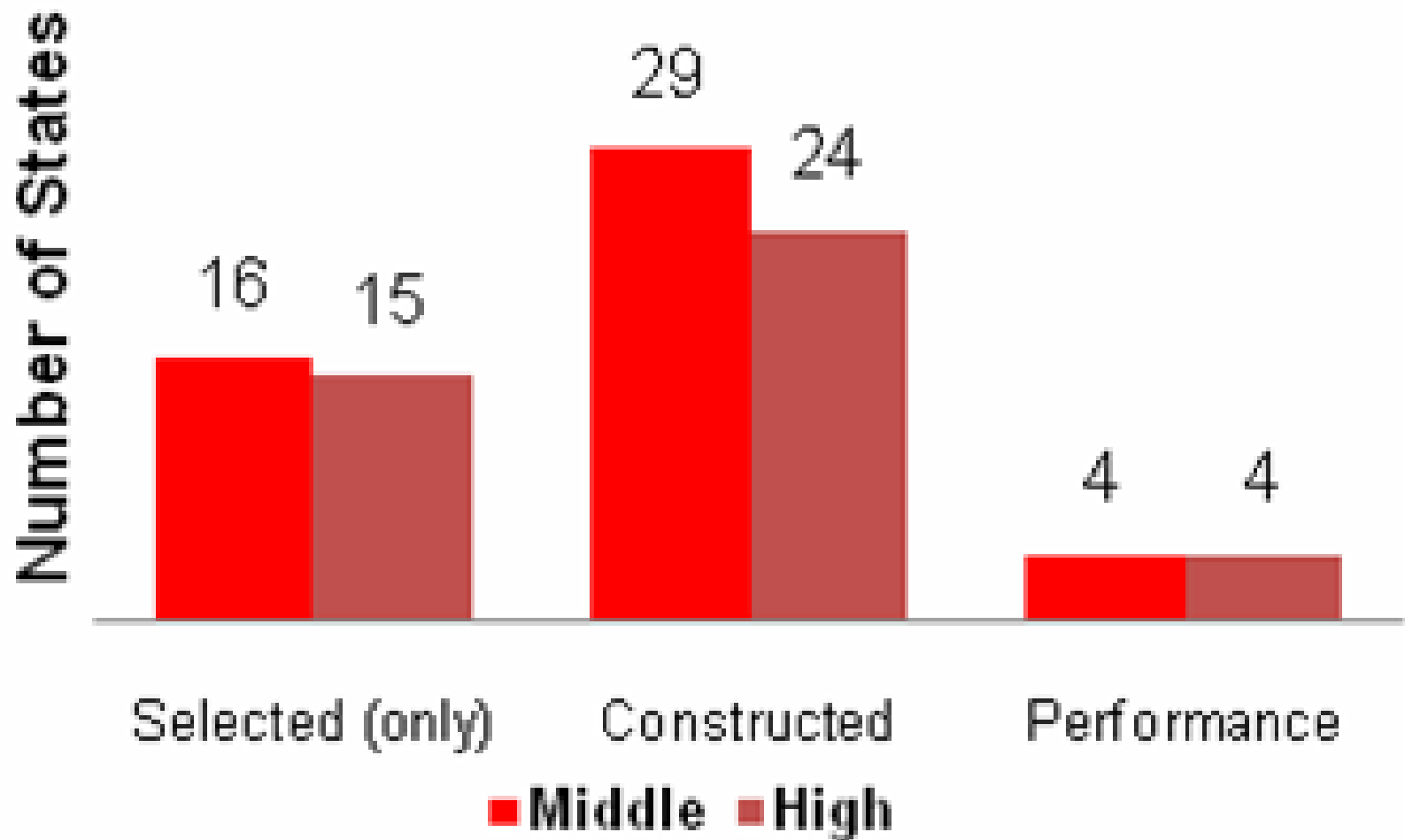
# High School Science Categories



**National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO)**



# RESPONSE FORMATS



Level in which states address accommodations for science assessments	Number of states
No mention of science in accommodations policies	N = 15
Few accommodations (N <10) listed for science assessments	N = 24
Science listed as a category in the accommodations matrix or (N >10) more accommodations are listed for science	N = 11



<b>Assessment Accommodation Used for Science Assessments</b>	<b>Number of States Allowing the Accommodation</b>
Read aloud questions	N = 25
Sign interpret questions	N = 21
Calculator	N = 15
Scribe	N = 11
Use of manipulatives	N = 4

