

Prepared Graduate Competencies in Mathematics

The prepared graduate competencies are the preschool through twelfth-grade concepts and skills that all students who complete the Colorado education system must master to ensure their success in a postsecondary and workforce setting.

Prepared graduates in mathematics:

- Understand the structure and properties of our number system. At their most basic level numbers are abstract symbols that represent real-world quantities
- Understand quantity through estimation, precision, order of magnitude, and comparison. The reasonableness of answers relies on the ability to judge appropriateness, compare, estimate, and analyze error
- Are fluent with basic numerical and symbolic facts and algorithms, and are able to select and use appropriate (mental math, paper and pencil, and technology) methods based on an understanding of their efficiency, precision, and transparency
- Make both relative (multiplicative) and absolute (arithmetic) comparisons between quantities. Multiplicative thinking underlies proportional reasoning
- Recognize and make sense of the many ways that variability, chance, and randomness appear in a variety of contexts
- Solve problems and make decisions that depend on understanding, explaining, and quantifying the variability in data
- Understand that equivalence is a foundation of mathematics represented in numbers, shapes, measures, expressions, and equations
- Make sound predictions and generalizations based on patterns and relationships that arise from numbers, shapes, symbols, and data
- Apply transformation to numbers, shapes, functional representations, and data
- Make claims about relationships among numbers, shapes, symbols, and data and defend those claims by relying on the properties that are the structure of mathematics
- Communicate effective logical arguments using mathematical justification and proof. Mathematical argumentation involves making and testing conjectures, drawing valid conclusions, and justifying thinking
- Use critical thinking to recognize problematic aspects of situations, create mathematical models, and present and defend solutions