Louisiana STUDENT STANDARDS MATHEMATICS

MATH — MATHEMATICS | 8 — GRADE | F — FOCUS

This focus document shows where students and teachers should spend the large majority of their time in order to meet the expectations of the Louisiana Student Standards for Mathematics.

Not all content in a given grade is emphasized equally in the standards. Some clusters require greater emphasis than others based on the depth of the ideas, the time that they take to master, and/or their importance to future mathematics or the demands of college and career readiness. More time in these areas is also necessary for students to meet the Louisiana Standards for Mathematical Practice.

To say that some things have greater emphasis is not to say that anything in the standards can safely be neglected in instruction. Neglecting material will leave gaps in student skill and understanding and may leave students unprepared for the challenges of a later grade.

MAJOR, SUPPORTING, AND ADDITIONAL CLUSTERS FOR GRADE 8

Emphases are given at the cluster level. Refer to the Louisiana Student Standards for Mathematics for the specific standards that fall within each cluster. Students should spend the large majority[1] of their time on the major work of the grade.[2]

■ Major Clusters ☐ Supporting Clusters ○ Additional Clusters

8.NS.A	☐	Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers.
8.EE.A	■	Work with radicals and integer exponents.
8.EE.B	■	Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.
8.EE.C	■	Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.
8.F.A	■	Define, evaluate, and compare functions.
8.F.B	☐	Use functions to model relationships between quantities.
8.G.A	■	Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software.
8.G.B	■	Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.
8.G.C	○	Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones and spheres.
8.SP.A	☐	Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR WORK IN GRADES K–8

K–2	Addition and subtraction – concepts, skills, and problem solving; place value
3–5	Multiplication and division of whole numbers and fractions – concepts, skills, and problem solving
6	Ratios and proportional relationships; early expressions and equations
7	Ratios and proportional relationships; arithmetic of rational numbers
8	Linear algebra and linear functions

1 At least 65% and up to approximately 85% of class time, with Grades K–2 nearer the upper end of that range, should be devoted to the major work of the grade.
2 Note, the critical areas are a survey of what will be taught at each grade level; the major work is the subset of topics that deserve the large majority of instructional time during a given year to best prepare students for college and careers.

EXAMPLES OF KEY ADVANCES FROM GRADE 7 TO GRADE 8

This section highlights some of the major grade-to-grade steps in the progression of increasing knowledge and skill detailed in the standards. Each key advance in mathematical content also corresponds to a widening scope of problems that students can solve. Examples of key advances are highlighted to stress the need to treat topics in ways that take into account where students have been in previous grades and where they will be going in subsequent grades.

- Students build on previous work with proportional relationships, unit rates, and graphing to connect these ideas and understand that the points (x, y) on a nonvertical line are the solutions of the equation $y = mx + b$, where m is the slope of the line as well as the unit rate of a proportional relationship (in the case $b = 0$). Students also formalize their previous work with linear relationships by working with functions — rules that assign to each input exactly one output.
- By working with equations such as $x^2 = 2$ and in geometric contexts such as the Pythagorean theorem, students enlarge their concept of number beyond the system of rationals to include irrational numbers. They represent these numbers with radical expressions and approximate these numbers with rationals.

FLUENCY EXPECTATIONS OR EXAMPLES OF CULMINATING STANDARDS

This section highlights individual standards that set expectations for fluency or that represent culminating masteries. Fluency standards are highlighted to stress the need to provide sufficient supports and opportunities for practice to help students meet these expectations. Wherever the word "fluently" appears in a content standard, it is used to mean "quickly and accurately." A key aspect of fluency in this sense is that it does not happen all at once in a single grade, but requires attention to student understanding as they progress towards college/career readiness. It is important to ensure that sufficient practice and extra support are provided at each grade, to allow all students to meet the standards that call explicitly for fluency. Fluency is not meant to come at the expense of understanding but is an outcome of a progression of learning and sufficient thoughtful practice. It is important to provide the conceptual building blocks that develop understanding in tandem with skill along the way to fluency; the roots of this conceptual understanding often extend to one or more grades earlier in the standards than the grade when fluency is finally expected. Culminating standards are highlighted to help give a sense of critical foundations needed to maintain progressions from grade to grade.

8.EE.C.7 Students have been working informally with one-variable linear equations since as early as kindergarten. This important line of development culminates in grade 8 with the solution of general one-variable linear equations, including cases with infinitely many solutions or no solutions as well as cases requiring algebraic manipulation using properties of operations. Coefficients and constants in these equations may be any rational numbers.

8.G.C.9 When students learn to solve problems involving volumes of cones, cylinders, and spheres — together with their previous grade 7 work in angle measure, area, surface area and volume (7.G.B.4–6) — they will have acquired a well-developed set of geometric measurement skills. These skills, along with proportional reasoning (7.RP) and multistep numerical problem solving (7.EE.B.3), can be combined and used in flexible ways as part of modeling during high school — not to mention after high school for college and careers.

EXAMPLES OF MAJOR WITHIN-GRADE DEPENDENCIES

This section highlights cases in which a body of content within a given grade depends, conceptually or logically, upon another body of content within that same grade. Examples of within-grade dependencies are highlighted to stress the need to organize material coherently within the grade. (Because of space limitations, only examples of large-scale dependencies are described in this section, but coherence is important for dependencies that exist at finer grain sizes as well.)

- An important development takes place in grade 8 when students make connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations (8.EE, second cluster). Making these connections depends on prior grades' work, including 7.RP.A.2 and 6.EE.C.9. There is also a major dependency within grade 8 itself: The angle-angle criterion for triangle similarity underlies the fact that a nonvertical line in the coordinate plane has equation $y = mx + b$. Therefore, students must do work with congruence and similarity (8.G.A.1–5) before they are able to justify the connections among proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations. Hence the indicated geometry work should likely begin at or near the very start of the year.[1]
- Much of the work of grade 8 involves lines, linear equations, and linear functions (8.EE.B.5–8; 8.F.A.3–4; 8.SP.A.2–3). Irrational numbers, radicals, the Pythagorean theorem, and volume (8.NS.A.1–2; 8.EE.A.2; 8.G.B.6–9) are nonlinear in nature. Curriculum developers might choose to address linear and nonlinear bodies of content somewhat separately. An exception, however, might be that when addressing functions, pervasively treating linear functions as separate from nonlinear functions might obscure the concept of function *per se*. There should also be sufficient treatment of nonlinear functions to avoid giving students the misleading impression that all functional relationships are linear (see also 7.RP.A.2a).

EXAMPLES OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTIONS AMONG STANDARDS, CLUSTERS OR DOMAINS

This section highlights opportunities for connecting content in assessments, as well as in curriculum and instruction. Examples of connections are highlighted to stress the need to avoid approaching the standards as merely a checklist.

- Students' work with proportional relationships, lines, linear equations, and linear functions can be enhanced by working with scatter plots and linear models of association in bivariate measurement data (8.SP.A.1–3).

1 Note that the Geometry cluster "Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies or geometry software" supports high school work with congruent triangles and congruent figures.