

APPENDIX 19: HSGQE PROFICIENCY DESCRIPTORS OF THE MINIMUM COMPETENCIES IN ESSENTIAL SKILLS

MATHEMATICS

Problem Solving, Communication, Reasoning, and Connections

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- uses appropriate symbols to justify solutions to mathematics problems.
- uses a variety of problem-solving strategies (guess-and-check, working backwards, diagrams, patterns, etc.).
- solves multi-step problems in real-world context.

Numeration

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- reads, writes, models, and orders positive and negative numbers including fractions, decimals, percents, square roots, and numbers with simple exponents.
- converts between fractions, decimals, and percents.
- compares, orders, and uses data containing mixed units of measurement (hours and minutes, feet and inches, metric units).
- expresses numbers in scientific notation.
- applies basic order of operations and rules of divisibility.

Measurement

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- accurately measures and draws distances and angles using a ruler or protractor.
- estimates and converts measurements of length and weight within the same system or between systems (standard and metric).
- identifies the appropriate tool and/or unit of measure with which to measure objects.
- solves problems involving rate, distance, time, scale, and money.
- reads, writes, and uses money notation, determining possible combinations of coins and bills to equal given amounts; counts back change for any given situation.

Estimation and Computation

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- adds, subtracts, multiplies, and divides numbers in various forms: positive and negative numbers, fractions, decimals, and percents.
- solves multi-step problems using ratios and proportions.
- rounds numbers appropriately to solve problems.
- simplifies expressions involving simple exponents.

Functions and Relationships

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- analyzes, extends, and applies visual, numeric, and geometric patterns.
- evaluates and simplifies algebraic expressions and equations.
- converts representation of data between graphs, tables, and linear equations.
- solves linear equations, simple inequalities, and systems of linear equations.

Geometry

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- identifies and applies properties of angles, polygons, and lines (including parallel, perpendicular, and intersecting lines).
- uses formulas to calculate perimeters, circumferences, and areas.
- applies the properties of equality and proportionality to solve problems involving congruent or similar shapes.

Probability and Statistics

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- selects and uses appropriate scales of graphs.
- reads data and predicts trends from tables, graphs, and charts.
- analyzes, interprets, and appropriately labels bar graphs, line graphs, and circle graphs to display data.
- determines the probability of an event.
- selects an appropriate sampling group.

READING

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- uses context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words within a text.

Summarize Information

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- summarizes events presented in a passage.
- determines and describes an author's position and/or viewpoint and applies it to a hypothetical situation.
- identifies relevant details and main ideas in a passage or parts of a passage.
- summarizes technical information from a set of directions into a chart.
- determines the purpose of a text.
- infers connections between ideas and events.
- interprets charts, graphs, tables, and illustrations.
- interprets information and applies it to new situations.

Critique Arguments

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- locates supporting evidence in text.
- sorts and categorizes information.
- applies information from a text.
- uses evidence to determine and support key ideas.
- describes the purpose behind language in an advertisement.
- differentiates between arguments based on opinions and arguments based on facts.

Apply Multi-Step Directions

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- follows multi-step directions to complete a task.
- determines and explains the reasons for using specific methods to complete a task.
- identifies and sequences information from a variety of sources.
- locates specific information from multi-step directions from one or more sources.
- uses information from a chart to fill out a form.

Make and Support Assertions

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- identifies clear assertions (statements, opinions, or interpretations).
- identifies evidence and details from a text to support assertions.

Analyze and Evaluate Themes

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- analyzes the themes of reading passages.
- identifies and interprets details that support the theme.
- compares and contrasts information and ideas in a text.

WRITING

Write Compositions

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- writes narrative, informative, persuasive, and descriptive responses.
- states and defines a topic or position.
- uses reasonably clear details and support to explain ideas.
- uses a logical sequence of ideas.
- uses words that adequately convey meaning.
- uses some variation of sentence length and structure.
- uses spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar correctly for the most part and does not make errors that alter the meaning of the text.

Use Conventional English

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills

- identifies and corrects sentence fragments and run-ons.
- uses correct capitalization in a variety of types of writing.
- identifies and corrects some errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar.
- identifies and corrects errors in verb tense consistency, subject-verb agreement, and regular and irregular verb usage.
- identifies and corrects errors in the usage of adverbs and adjectives.
- identifies simple sentences that are structured correctly and convey the intended meaning.

Revise Writing

A student proficient in the minimum competencies in essential skills organizes a paragraph by

- eliminating sentences that are off-topic.
- placing sentences in a logical order.
- adding transitions.
- combining two or three simple sentences into a single sentence by using subordinate clauses or prepositional phrases.
- identifying a sentence with correct placement of subordinate clauses.
- adding supporting details to develop a topic.
- maintaining meaning when revising writing.