Focus
The Mathematics standards allow for the teaching and learning of mathematical concepts focused around major clusters at each grade level, enhanced by supporting and additional clusters. Focus on the major clusters will help students gain strong foundations and the ability to apply the math they know to solve problems inside and outside the classroom.

Coherence
Mathematics is a coherent body of knowledge made up of interconnected concepts. Therefore, the standards are designed around coherent progressions from grade to grade. Learning is carefully connected across grades so that students can build new understanding onto foundations built in previous years.

Rigor
Rigor refers to a deep, authentic command of mathematical concepts. The following components of rigor should be pursued in the classroom with equal intensity:

Conceptual Understanding:
The standards call for conceptual understanding of key concepts. Students must be able to access concepts from a number of perspectives in order to see math as more than a set of mnemonics or discrete procedures.

Procedural skill and fluency:
The standards call for speed and accuracy in calculation. Students must practice core functions in order to have access to more complex concepts and procedures.

Application:
The standards call for students to exercise critical thinking in order to choose the appropriate concept for application. Opportunities should be provided in the classroom at all grade levels for students to apply math concepts in "real world" situations. Correctly applying mathematical knowledge depends on students having a solid conceptual understanding and procedural fluency.