



## Components of the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Instructional Guide for Mathematics

The B.E.S.T. Instructional Guide for Mathematics (BIG-M) is intended to assist educators with planning for student learning and instruction aligned to Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards. This guide is designed to aid high-quality instruction through the identification of components that support the learning and teaching of the B.E.S.T. Mathematics standards and benchmarks. The BIG-M includes an analysis of information related to the B.E.S.T. Standards within this specific mathematics course, the instructional emphasis and aligned resources. This document is posted on the [B.E.S.T. Mathematics webpage](#) of the Florida Department of Education's website and will continue to undergo edits as needed.

The following table is an example of the layout for each benchmark and includes the defining attributes for each component. It is important to note that instruction should not be limited to the possible connecting benchmarks, related terms, strategies or examples provided. To do so would strip the intention of an educator meeting students' individual skills, knowledge and abilities.

### **Benchmark**

*focal point for instruction within lesson or task*

---

This section includes the benchmark as identified in the B.E.S.T. Standards for Mathematics. The benchmark, also referred to as the Benchmark of Focus, is the focal point for student learning and instruction. The benchmark, and its related example(s) and clarification(s), can also be found in the course description. The 9-12 benchmarks may be included in multiple courses, select the example(s) or clarification(s) as appropriate for the identified course.

### **Connecting Benchmarks/Horizontal Alignment**

*in other standards within the grade level or course*

---

This section includes a list of connecting benchmarks that relate horizontally to the Benchmark of Focus. Horizontal alignment is the intentional progression of content within a grade level or course linking skills within and across strands. Connecting benchmarks are benchmarks that either make a mathematical connection or include prerequisite skills. The information included in this section is not a comprehensive list, and educators are encouraged to find other connecting benchmarks. Additionally, this list will not include benchmarks from the same standard since benchmarks within the same standard already have an inherent connection.

### **Terms from the K-12 Glossary**

This section includes terms from Appendix C: K-12 Glossary, found within the B.E.S.T. Standards for Mathematics document, which are relevant to the identified Benchmark of Focus. The terms included in this section should not be viewed as a comprehensive vocabulary list, but instead should be considered during instruction or act as a reference for educators.



### **Vertical Alignment**

*across grade levels or courses*

This section includes a list of related benchmarks that connect vertically to the Benchmark of Focus. Vertical alignment is the intentional progression of content from one year to the next, spanning across multiple grade levels. Benchmarks listed in this section make mathematical connections from prior grade levels or courses in future grade levels or courses within and across strands. If the Benchmark of Focus is a new concept or skill, it may not have any previous benchmarks listed. Likewise, if the Benchmark of Focus is a mathematical skill or concept that is finalized in learning and does not have any direct connection to future grade levels or courses, it may not have any future benchmarks listed. The information included in this section is not a comprehensive list, and educators are encouraged to find other benchmarks within a vertical progression.

### **Instructional Strategies**

This section includes further narrative for instruction of the benchmark and vertical alignment. Additionally, this section may also include the following:

- explanations and details for the benchmark;
- vocabulary not provided within Appendix C;
- possible instructional strategies and teaching methods; and
- strategies to embed potentially related Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning Standards (MTRs).

### **Common Misconceptions or Errors**

This section will include common student misconceptions or errors and may include strategies to address the identified misconception or error. Recognition of these misconceptions and errors enables educators to identify them in the classroom and make efforts to correct the misconception or error. This corrective effort in the classroom can also be a form of formative assessment within instruction.

### **Instructional Tasks**

*demonstrates the depth of the benchmark and the connection to the related benchmarks*

This section will include example instructional tasks, which may be open-ended and are intended to demonstrate the depth of the benchmark. Some instructional tasks include integration of the Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning Standards (MTRs) and related benchmark(s). Enrichment tasks may be included to make connections to benchmarks in later grade levels or courses. Tasks may require extended time, additional materials and collaboration.

### **Instructional Items**

*demonstrates the focus of the benchmark*

This section will include example instructional items which may be used as evidence to demonstrate the students' understanding of the benchmark. Items may highlight one or more parts of the benchmark.

---

*\*The strategies, tasks and items included in the BIG-M are examples and should not be considered comprehensive.*