

## **Introduction to the Instructional Focus Documents**

As a part of the fall 2017 Mathematics Item Writer Workshops, which aimed to equip educators with information to help them connect the Tennessee academic standards for mathematics, effective assessment practices, and strong classroom instruction, the department created instructional focus documents to share with participants. These documents were developed to target the standards where statewide data indicated students struggled the most and are optional supplements for educators to consider.

The purpose of these documents is to provide teachers with examples of learning across all performance levels to help educators determine the depth of a student's conceptual understanding of the Tennessee mathematics standards. These examples highlight ways in which students can demonstrate that they are progressing toward grade-level expectations.

Additionally, instructional guidance is provided to clarify the types of instruction that will help a student progress along the continuum of learning. It is important to note that at level 3 a student is considered on track for postsecondary readiness. Instruction in the classroom should target level 3. This is the rationale for an instructional focus being provided exclusively for levels 3 and 4.

With the overwhelming positive feedback received from the educators who participated in the fall item writer workshops, we wanted to share these resources with all educators as they continue to strengthen their practice. Our current plan is, over time, to continue building out these documents for the remainder of the mathematics standards to further support classroom teachers.