

Middle School Benchmarks Used in the Evaluation

Fractions and operations on them were selected, since these are core areas at the middle school level.

<p>▶▶ BENCHMARK - Number Concepts The expression a/b can mean different things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ a parts of size $1/b$ each, ◆ a divided by b, or ◆ a compared to b. <p>(Chapter 9A, grades 6-8, benchmark 5, p. 213)</p>	<p>▶▶ BENCHMARK - Number Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use, ◆ interpret, and ◆ compare <p>numbers in several equivalent forms such as integers, fractions, decimals, and percents. (Chapter 12B, grades 6-8, benchmark 2, pg. 291)</p>
<p>▶▶ BENCHMARK - Geometry Concepts Some shapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ have special properties: ◆ Triangular shapes tend to make structures rigid, and ◆ round shapes give the least possible boundary for a given amount of interior area. <p>Shapes can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ match exactly or ◆ have the same shape in different sizes. <p>(Chapter 9C, grades 6-8, benchmark 1, p. 224)</p>	<p>▶▶ BENCHMARK - Geometry Skills Calculate the circumferences and areas of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ rectangles, ◆ triangles, and ◆ circles, and the ◆ volumes of rectangular solids. <p>(Chapter 12B, grades 6-8, benchmark 3, p. 291)</p>
<p>▶▶ BENCHMARK - Algebra Graph Concepts Graphs can show a variety of possible relationships between two variables. As one variable increases uniformly, the other may do one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ increase or decrease steadily, ◆ increase or decrease faster and faster, ◆ get closer and closer to some limiting value, ◆ reach some intermediate maximum or minimum ◆ alternately increase and decrease indefinitely, ◆ increase or decrease in steps, or ◆ do something different from any of these. <p>(Chapter 9B, grades 6-8, benchmark 3, p. 219)</p>	<p>▶▶ BENCHMARK - Algebra Equation Concepts Symbolic equations can be used to summarize how the quantity of something</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ changes over time or ◆ in response to other changes. <p>(Chapter 11C, grades 6-8, benchmark 4, p. 274)</p>

A skill benchmark was not selected for algebra because the development of equation-solving skills is not a central part of the middle grades curriculum for all students.