

Essential Skills

Definitions and Graduation Requirements

Essential Skill Definitions and Timeline	Requirement for students first enrolled in Grade 9 in:
<p>1. Read and comprehend a variety of text*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the ability to read and understand text.* • Summarize and critically analyze key points of text,* events, issues, phenomena or problems, distinguishing factual from non-factual and literal from inferential elements. • Interpret significant ideas and themes, including those conveyed through figurative language and use of symbols. • Follow instructions from informational or technical text* to perform a task, answer questions, and solve problems. <p><i>*Text includes but is not limited to all forms of written material, communications, media, and other representations in words, numbers, and graphics and visual displays using traditional and technological formats</i></p>	<p>2008-2009 and beyond</p>
<p>2. Write clearly and accurately</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapt writing to different audiences, purposes, and contexts in a variety of formats and media, using appropriate technology. • Develop organized, well-reasoned, supported, and focused communications. • Write to explain, summarize, inform, and persuade, including business, professional, technical, and personal communications. • Use appropriate conventions to write clearly and coherently, including correct use of grammar, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, sentence construction, and formatting. 	<p>2009-2010 and beyond</p>
<p>3. Apply mathematics in a variety of settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret a situation and apply workable mathematical concepts and strategies, using appropriate technologies where applicable. • Produce evidence, such as graphs, data, or mathematical models, to obtain and verify a solution. • Communicate and defend the verified process and solution, using pictures, symbols, models, narrative or other methods. 	<p>2010-2011 and beyond</p>

Essential Skill Definitions and Timeline	Requirement for students first enrolled in Grade 9 in:
<p>4. Listen actively and speak clearly and coherently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen actively to understand verbal and non-verbal communication. • Give and follow spoken instructions to perform a task, ask and answer questions, and solve problems. • Present or discuss ideas clearly, effectively, and coherently, using both verbal and nonverbal techniques. • Use language appropriate to particular audiences and contexts. 	<p>Student cohorts beyond 2013-2014 may also be accountable for the additional Essential Skills.</p>
<p>5. Think critically and analytically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and explain the key elements of a complex event, text*, issue, problem or phenomenon. • Develop a method to explore the relationships between the key elements of a complex event, text*, issue, problem or phenomenon. • Gather, question and evaluate the quality of information from multiple primary and secondary sources. • Propose defensible conclusions that address multiple and diverse perspectives. • Evaluate the strength of conclusions, differentiating reasoning based on facts from reasoning based on opinions. 	<p>Additional Essential Skills graduation requirements must be approved by the State Board of Education by March 1st of the students' 8th grade year.</p>
<p>6. Use technology to learn, live, and work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use creativity and innovation to generate ideas, products, or processes using current technology. • Use technology to participate in a broader community through networking, collaboration and learning. • Recognize and practice legal and responsible behavior in the use and access of information and technology. • Use technology as a tool to access, research, manage, integrate, and communicate ideas and information. 	<p>Student cohorts beyond 2013-2014 may also be accountable for the additional Essential Skills.</p>
<p>7. Demonstrate civic and community engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply knowledge of local, state, and U.S. history and government to explain current social and political issues. • Perform the civic and community responsibilities essential to living in a representative democracy. 	

Essential Skill Definitions and Timeline		Requirement for students first enrolled in Grade 9 in:	
<p>8. Demonstrate global literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultural, linguistic, and artistic expressions. • Apply a global perspective to analyze contemporary and historical issues. 		<p>Additional Essential Skills graduation requirements must be approved by the State Board of Education by March 1st of the students' 8th grade year.</p>	
<p>9. Demonstrate personal management and teamwork skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate cooperatively and productively in work teams to identify and solve problems. • Display initiative and demonstrate respect for other team members to complete tasks. • Plan, organize, and complete assigned tasks accurately and on time. • Exhibit work ethic and performance, including the ability to be responsible and dependable. 			
Graduation Requirements by Cohort			
Students first enrolled in Grade 9 in	1. Read and comprehend a variety of text	2. Write clearly and accurately	3. Apply mathematics in a variety of settings
2008-2009	Required		
2009-2010	Required	Required	
2010-2011 and beyond	Required	Required	Required