



EMTP 1 - Establish Mathematics Goals to Focus Learning

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- 1 EMTP 1 - Establish mathematics goals to focus on learning - starts the lesson planning process.
- 2 According to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, “effective teaching of mathematics
- 3 establishes clear goals for the mathematics that students are learning, situates goals within learning
- 4 progressions, and uses the goals to guide instructional decisions.”
- 5 When it comes to effective mathematics instruction, setting clear and intentional learning goals is
- 6 essential.
- 7 Learning goals for mathematics should be clear and specific, outlining exactly what students are
- 8 expected to know and understand. These goals should be focused on a clear end goal, rather than
- 9 vague objectives. When planning instruction, it's important to begin with and continuously refer to
- 10 the Kentucky Academic Standards for Mathematics. These standards provide guidance for
- 11 identifying learning goals, understanding the coherence and relevance of the content, defining
- 12 success criteria, and integrating the standards for mathematical practice with the content standards.
- 13 Establishing goals goes beyond posting standards on the board—it's about having a clearly
- 14 articulated objective that drives the lesson. As teachers, we need to help students understand why
- 15 they're learning and how today's goals fit into their broader mathematical journey. By understanding
- 16 their current grade level standards and their vertical alignment with grades before and after them,
- 17 teachers can establish appropriate goals and guide students effectively towards accomplishing
- 18 them. Clear goals help both the teacher and the students see the clear purpose of their work, make
- 19 connections to prior knowledge, and track their own progress toward them. This shared focus
- 20 creates meaningful learning experiences, where goals are not just written on the board but, instead,



21 are used to actively engage students in their learning. When done well, clear goals make math

22 more meaningful for all learners.