Understanding Rubric Level Progressions

October 2014
edTPA stems from a twenty-five-year history of developing performance-based assessments of teaching quality and effectiveness. The Teacher Performance Assessment Consortium (Stanford and AACTE) acknowledges the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium, and the Performance Assessment for California Teachers for their pioneering work using discipline-specific portfolio assessments to evaluate teaching quality. This version of the handbook has been developed with thoughtful input from over six hundred teachers and teacher educators representing various national design teams, national subject matter organizations (AAHPERD, ACEI, ACTFL, AMLE, CEC, IRA, NAEYC, NAGC, NCSS, NCTE, NCTM, NSTA), and content validation reviewers. All contributions are recognized and appreciated.
Understanding Rubric Level Progressions
Middle Childhood Mathematics
edTPA
Fall 2014

edTPA portfolio is a collection of authentic artifacts and evidence from a candidate’s actual teaching practice. *Understanding Rubric Level Progressions* is a KEY resource that is designed to describe the meaning behind the rubrics. A close read of the following sections will help program faculty and supervisors internalize the criteria and level distinctions for each rubric. This document is intended as a resource for program faculty and supervisors who are supporting candidates with edTPA. Faculty and supervisors are strongly encouraged to share this document with candidates and use it to support their understanding of the rubrics, as well as their development as new professionals. The *Understanding Rubric Level Progressions* is intended to enhance, not replace, the support that candidates receive from programs in their preparation for edTPA.

Drawing from the Association of Middle Level Education preparation standards\(^1\), all subject-specific handbooks for middle childhood attend to the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to teach diverse young adolescents in grades four through nine. Because the secondary edTPA handbooks were developed for use in states with licenses spanning grades 7-12, there is significant overlap between the middle childhood and secondary handbooks, prompts, and rubrics which measure content specific pedagogical knowledge. Additionally, all handbooks include attention to developmentally appropriate pedagogical practices associated with powerful learning for young and older adolescents. In particular, middle childhood edTPA prompts and rubrics are designed to attend to AMLE Performance Standards\(^2\) (Standard 1: Young Adolescent Development Elements a and b; Standard 2: Middle Level Curriculum Elements a, b, and c; and Standard 4: Middle Level Instruction and Assessment Elements a-d).

The Middle Childhood edTPA handbooks include prompts and modified rubric level descriptors to assess additional indicators core to middle level teaching and learning–these include the following specific outcomes:

**Standard 1: Young Adolescent Development**

“Middle level teacher candidates understand the major concepts, principles, and theories of young adolescent development--intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and moral.”

“Middle level teacher candidates utilize their knowledge of young adolescent development when selecting instructional strategies and making curricular decisions.”

**Standard 2: Middle Level Curriculum**

“Middle level teacher candidates demonstrate a depth and breadth of subject matter content knowledge that reflects the subjects they teach, for example, mathematics, English/language arts, reading, science, social studies, speech and drama, health, physical education, and family and consumer science. They incorporate literacy skills and state-of-the-art technologies into teaching the content of the subjects they teach.”

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2 Note that AMLE Standards 3 and 5 are not measured by edTPA. edTPA is intended to be used as one assessment in a program’s multiple measures evaluation system. A candidate’s performance related to these standards is best evaluated ongoing through coursework, systematic observation and clinical supervision.
“Middle level teacher candidates understand the interdisciplinary nature of knowledge and help young adolescents make connections among subject areas. They assist young adolescents in making connections with their own ideas, interests, and experiences.”

“Middle level teacher candidates understand that middle level curriculum should be relevant, challenging, integrative, and exploratory and provide learning opportunities that enhance critical thinking and problem solving in their specialty fields (e.g., mathematics, social studies, health).”

“Middle level teacher candidates are knowledgeable about local, state, national and common core middle level curriculum standards and know how to teach and assess the content of those standards.”

**Standard 4: Middle Level Instruction and Assessment**

“Middle level teacher candidates are knowledgeable about teaching and assessment strategies that are especially effective in their content fields.”

“Middle level teacher candidates know a wide variety of teaching, learning, and assessment strategies, and apply them in ways that increase learning for all young adolescents. Middle level teacher candidates create learning experiences that encourage exploration, problem solving, creativity, and critical thinking so that young adolescents can be actively engaged in learning.”

“Middle level teacher candidates develop and administer assessments and use them as formative and summative tools to create meaningful learning experiences by effectively judging prior learning, implementing effective lessons, reflecting on young adolescent learning, and adjusting instruction based on the knowledge gained.”

“Middle level teacher candidates understand how to motivate all young adolescents and facilitate their learning through a wide variety of developmentally responsive materials and resources.”

The chart below reveals where the Middle Childhood indicators identified above are reflected in rubric criteria (by number) and where the secondary handbook rubric criteria already address AMLE Performance Standards and other subject-specific pedagogical standards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Middle Childhood Indicators by Rubric</th>
<th>Unmodified Criteria/Score-Level Descriptors Consistent with AMLE Performance Standards</th>
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<tr>
<td>Task 1</td>
<td>Task 1 Rubric 2 Planning for Varied Student Learning Needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rubric 1 Planning for Mathematical Understandings (interdisciplinary connections)</td>
<td>Rubric 4 Academic Language Support</td>
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<td>Rubric 3 Justification for Plans (connections to development)</td>
<td>Rubric 5 Monitoring Student Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task 2</td>
<td>Task 2 Rubric 6 Learning Environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubric 7 Engaging Students (connections to development)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rubric 10 Analyzing Teaching Effectiveness (connections to development)  Rubric 8 Deepening Student Learning  Rubric 9 Subject-Specific Pedagogy: Using Representations

Task 3  Rubric 15 Using Assessment to Inform Instruction (connections to development)  Task 3  Rubric 11 Analyzing Student Learning  Rubric 12 Providing Feedback to Guide Learning  Rubric 13 Student Use of Feedback
Rubric 14 Analyzing Students’ Language Use

In the next section, we provide definitions and guidelines for making scoring decisions based on the “preponderance of evidence.” The remainder of the document presents the score-level distinctions and other information for each edTPA Task, including:

1) Elaborated explanations for rubric Guiding Questions
2) Definitions of key terms used in rubrics
3) Primary sources of evidence for each rubric
4) Rubric-specific decision rules for multiple criteria in a rubric
5) Automatic 1 criteria
6) Examples that distinguish between levels for each rubric: Level 3, below 3 (Levels 1 and 2), and above 3 (Levels 4 and 5).

Preponderance of Evidence

Decisions about a score level are based on the “preponderance of evidence” provided by candidates and its match to rubric level criteria. The interpretation of each criterion requires the application of professional judgment. The following guidelines are applied when making scoring decisions based on the “preponderance of evidence”:

When evidence falls across score points, scorers should use the following criteria while making the scoring decision:

1. A pattern of evidence supporting a particular score level has a heavier weight than isolated evidence in another score level.
2. Automatic 1 criteria outweigh all other evidence for the specific guiding question, as they reflect foundational understandings related to particular rubrics. Note that not all criteria for Level 1 are Automatic 1s. Automatic 1s are identified in this document for applicable rubrics.
MIDDLE CHILDHOOD MATHEMATICS LEARNING SEGMENT FOCUS:
Candidate’s instruction should support young adolescents to develop conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and mathematical reasoning/problem-solving skills.

PLANNING RUBRIC 1: Planning for Mathematical Understandings
MC MTH1: How do the candidate’s plans build young adolescents’ conceptual understanding, computational/procedural fluency, AND mathematical reasoning and/or problem-solving skills?

The Guiding Question addresses how a candidate’s plans build a learning segment of three to five lessons around a central focus. Candidates will explain how they plan to organize tasks, activities, and/or materials to align with the central focus and the standards/objectives. The planned learning segment must develop young adolescents’ conceptual understanding, computational/procedural fluency, and mathematical reasoning/problem-solving skills. In addition, candidates will explain how they will help young adolescent learners make interdisciplinary and integrative connections between mathematics and other subject areas.

Key Concepts of Rubric:
- **Aligned** – Standards, objectives, instructional strategies and learning tasks are “aligned” when they consistently address the same/similar learning outcomes for young adolescents.

Mathematic Terms Central to the edTPA:
- **Conceptual understanding** -- Young adolescents demonstrate “conceptual understanding” in mathematics when they recognize, label, and generate examples of concepts; use and interrelate models, diagrams, manipulatives, and varied representations of concepts; identify and apply principles; know and apply facts and definitions; compare, contrast, and integrate related concepts and principles; recognize, interpret, and apply the signs, symbols, and terms used to represent concepts (NAEP, 2003; *What Does the NAEP Mathematics Assessment Measure?*).
- **Mathematical reasoning** – “…the capacity to think logically about the relationships among concepts and situations. Such reasoning is correct and valid, stems from careful consideration of alternatives, and includes knowledge of how to justify the conclusions….One uses it to navigate through the many facts, procedures, concepts, and solution methods and to see that they all fit together in some way, that they make sense.” (National Research Council, 2001. *Adding it Up: Helping Children Learn Mathematics*, p. 151, “adaptive reasoning”).
- **Problem-solving skills** -- skills to engage in a task for which the solution method is not known in advance (adapted from *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics*, p. 52)

Young Adolescent Learning Terms Central to the edTPA:
- **Integrative** -- The Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) encourages middle grades teachers to design curriculum and select materials that are integrative, challenging, and grounded in the ideas, interests, and experiences of all young adolescents. In an integrative curriculum, a problem or issue, often initiated by the learners, is the driving force for organizing the curriculum.
- **Interdisciplinary** -- An interdisciplinary curriculum makes connections across several disciplines through a theme that crosses curricular lines. The learning experiences require that knowledge from several disciplines be utilized to explore the concepts and skills of the curriculum.

Primary Sources of Evidence:
Context Information (for understanding and assessing candidate’s decisions)
Planning Commentary **Prompt 1**
Lesson Plans (standards, objectives, instructional strategies and learning tasks, resources)
Key Instructional Materials (to help you understand the plans in more detail)
| DECISION RULES | • In cases where there is an additional middle childhood specific criterion present, always place greater weight or consideration on the content pedagogy criterion. |
| AUTOMATIC 1 | • Significant content inaccuracies  
• A pattern of misalignment between standards, objectives, learning tasks, and material |

### Unpacking Rubric Levels

#### Level 3
**Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:**
- Plans for instruction are **logically sequenced** to facilitate young adolescents’ learning.
- Plans are presented in a linear sequence in which **each lesson builds on the previous one(s)** OR a nonlinear sequence, e.g., when a mathematical problem is posed and young adolescents develop an understanding of concepts and procedures by reasoning from what they already know to explore the problem.
- In addition, the sequencing of the plans supports young adolescents’ learning by connecting facts and procedures to concepts **AND** reasoning or problem solving during the learning segment. **These connections are explicitly written in the plans or commentary**, and how the connections are made is not left to the determination of the scorer.
- Be sure to pay attention to each component of the subject-specific emphasis (facts, concepts, procedures, mathematical reasoning/problem solving).

#### Below 3
**Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:**
- Plans for instruction support young adolescent learning of facts and/or computations/procedures but **with little or no** planned instruction to guide understanding of the underlying concepts of facts and procedures or why the procedures work.

**What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3:** At Level 2,
- the candidate is paying some attention to helping young adolescents understand what they are doing with facts or procedures, but the **connections** to concepts or reasoning are **fleeting or vague**, so that young adolescents are largely left to make sense of these on their own.

**What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2:** At Level 1,
- the candidate is **focused on teaching memorization or step-by-step procedures** where there is little or no attention to assisting young adolescents in understanding the concepts or situation.

**Automatic Score of 1 is given when:**
- There is a pattern of **significant content inaccuracies** that will lead to young adolescent misunderstandings. Content flaws in the plans or instructional materials are significant and systematic, and interfere with young adolescent learning.
- **Standards, objectives, learning tasks, and materials are not aligned** with each other. There is a consistent pattern of misalignment across the plans. If one standard or objective does not align within the learning segment, this level of misalignment is not significant enough for a Level 1.
Evidence that demonstrates performance above Level 3:

- Learning tasks are designed to support young adolescents to make clear, **consistent** connections between facts, procedures, concepts, AND reasoning or problem-solving skills.
- Consistent connections require young adolescents to routinely apply understandings of concepts and explain their reasoning or problem-solving strategies as they use facts or procedures throughout the learning segment.
- Plans support learning mathematics AND interdisciplinary connections.

**What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3:** At Level 4,

- the candidate addresses connections between and among concepts, procedures, and reasoning or problem solving **in every lesson**. Be sure to pay attention to each component of the subject-specific emphasis (facts, concepts, procedures, and mathematical reasoning or problem solving).
- The candidate uses these connections **to deepen young adolescent understanding of the central focus**.
- The candidate may state general interdisciplinary connections in the commentary, but these are not clearly represented in the lesson plans.

**What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4:** At Level 5, the candidate meets all of Level 4 AND

- **plans include activities and questions that will clearly support young adolescents in making mathematics connections themselves.**
  - This would include **plans that pose strategic problems and/or questions that lead young adolescents to make the connections** and/or plans where **young adolescents develop the habit** of looking for connections between concepts and procedures through reasoning and problem-solving strategies, justifying the steps in a solution, and/or identifying and correcting errors in their solution strategy.
- **Interdisciplinary or real-life connections are clearly stated as objectives in the lesson plans,** and connections originate from an integrative theme (e.g., Transportation), not solely from subject matter outcomes.
PLANNING RUBRIC 2: Planning to Support Varied Student Learning Needs

MC MTH2: How does the candidate use knowledge of his/her students to target support for young adolescents to develop conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, AND mathematical reasoning and/or problem-solving skills?

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate plans to support students in relationship to students’ characteristics. This includes using the candidate’s understanding of students to develop, choose, or adapt instructional strategies, learning tasks, and materials.

**Key Concepts of Rubric:**
- Planned Supports include instructional strategies, learning tasks and materials, and other resources deliberately designed to facilitate students learning of the central focus.

**Primary Sources of Evidence:**
Context for Learning Information
Planning Commentary Prompts 2 and 3
Lesson Plans (instructional strategies and learning tasks, assessments, and resources)
Key Instructional and Assessment Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECISION RULES</th>
<th>AUTOMATIC 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A for this rubric</td>
<td>Support according to requirements in IEPs or 504 plans is completely missing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If there are no young adolescents with IEPs or 504 plans, then this criterion is not applicable.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unpacking Rubric Levels**

**Level 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Supports are related to the learning objectives and central focus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Candidate plans supports for young adolescents that address the learning needs of the whole class while assisting them in achieving the learning objectives. None of the supports are differentiated for any young adolescents other than those required in an IEP or 504 plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Candidate addresses at least one of the requirements from IEPs and 504 plans as described in the Context for Learning Information.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Below 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3: Candidate plans insufficient supports to develop young adolescents’ learning relative to the identified objectives or the central focus. Evidenced by ONE or more of the following:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• candidate does not plan supports for young adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• planned supports are not closely tied to learning objectives or the central focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• plans do not reflect ANY instructional requirements in IEPs or 504 plans.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,
- plans address at least one of the instructional requirements set forth in IEPs and 504 plans. However, it is not clear that other planned supports will be helpful in supporting young adolescents to meet the learning objectives.
- The instructional supports would work for almost any learning objective. Therefore, supports are not closely connected to the learning objectives or central focus (e.g., check on young adolescents who
What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1,
- evidence of intentional support for young adolescents’ needs as described by the candidate is absent.

Automatic Score of 1:
- If IEP/504 requirements are described in the Context for Learning or commentary but none are included in the planned support, then the rubric is scored as an Automatic Level 1, regardless of other evidence of support for the whole class or groups or individuals in the class. If the candidate describes one or more of the IEP or 504 plan requirements for any young adolescent in the lesson plans or commentary, then the score is determined by the Planned Support criterion. (If there are no young adolescents with IEPs or 504 plans, then this criterion is not applicable.)

Above 3

Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:
- Plans address specific young adolescent needs through supports that will help young adolescents meet the learning objectives.
- Candidate addresses at least one of the instructional requirements from IEPs and 504 plans as described in the Context for Learning Information.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,
- the candidate explains how the supports tied to the learning objectives are intended to meet specific needs of individuals or groups of young adolescents with similar needs, in addition to the whole class. Supports should be provided for more than one young adolescent—either more than one individual or for a specific group of young adolescents with similar needs (e.g., more instruction in a prerequisite skill).

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5,
- the candidate meets Level 4 AND ALSO identifies possible preconceptions, errors, or misconceptions associated with the central focus, and describes specific strategies to identify and respond to them.
- If the plans and commentary attend to misconceptions or common misunderstandings without also satisfying Level 4 requirements, this is not sufficient evidence for Level 5.
### PLANNING RUBRIC 3: Using Knowledge of Students to Inform Teaching and Learning

**MC MTH3: How does the candidate use knowledge of his/her students to justify instructional plans?**

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate justifies the ways in which learning tasks and materials make content meaningful to students, by drawing upon knowledge of individuals or groups, as well as research or theory.

### Key Concepts of Rubric:
- *Deficit thinking* is revealed when candidates explain low academic performance based primarily on students’ cultural or linguistic backgrounds, the challenges they face outside of school or from lack of family support. When this leads to a pattern of low expectations, not taking responsibility for providing appropriate support, or not acknowledging any students’ strengths, this is a deficit view.

For the following terms from the rubric, see the handbook glossary:
- *prior academic learning*
- *assets* (personal/cultural/community and developmental assets)

### Primary Sources of Evidence:
**Planning Commentary Prompts 2 and 3**

### DECISION RULES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUTOMATIC 1</th>
<th>Deficit view of students and their backgrounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Unpacking Rubric Levels

#### Level 3
**Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:**
- The candidate’s justification of learning tasks includes explicit connections to what young adolescents have already learned or knowledge of young adolescent’s cultural backgrounds or personal lived experiences/interests/development.
- The candidate refers to research or theory in relation to the plans to support young adolescent learning. The connections between the research/theory and the tasks are not clearly made.

#### Below 3
**Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:**
- There is a limited amount of evidence that the candidate has considered his/her particular class in planning.
  OR
- The candidate justifies the plans through a deficit view of young adolescents and their backgrounds.

**What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3:** At Level 2, the candidate’s justification of the learning tasks makes some connection with what they know about young adolescents’ prior academic learning OR personal/cultural/community/developmental assets. These connections are not strong, but are instead vague or unelaborated, or involve a listing of what candidates know about their young adolescents in terms of prior knowledge or background without making a direct connection to how that is related to planning.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• there is no evidence that the candidate uses knowledge of young adolescents to plan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Automatic Score of 1 is given when:**

- Candidate’s justification of learning tasks represents a deficit view of young adolescents and their backgrounds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Above 3</th>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The candidate’s justification not only uses knowledge of young adolescents--as both academic learners AND as individuals who bring in personal, cultural, community, and developmental assets--but also uses research or theory to inform planning.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• the evidence includes a balance of specific examples from young adolescents’ prior academic learning AND knowledge of young adolescents’ personal/cultural/community/developmental assets, and explains how the plans reflect this knowledge. The explanation needs to include explicit connections between the learning tasks and the examples provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The candidate explains how research or theory informed the selection or design of at least one learning task or the way in which it was implemented. The connection between the research or theory and the learning task(s) must be explicit.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• the candidate meets Level 4 AND explains how principles of research or theory support or set a foundation for their planning decisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The justifications are explicit, well-articulated, and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the research/theory and developmental principles that are clearly reflected in the plans.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PLANNING RUBRIC 4: Identifying and Supporting Language Demands**

**MC MTH4:** How does the candidate identify and support language demands associated with a key mathematics learning task?

The Guiding Question examines the specific language demands identified in the learning segment and identifies support for the use of this language.

**Key Concepts of Rubric:**

*Use the definitions below to identify evidence for each language demand while scoring.*

- **language demands** -- Specific ways that academic language (vocabulary, functions, discourse, syntax) is used by young adolescents to participate in learning tasks through reading, writing, listening, and/or speaking to demonstrate their disciplinary understanding.

- **language functions** -- The content and language focus of the learning task represented by the active verbs within the learning outcomes. Common language functions in mathematics include *describing* mathematical phenomena; *predicting* from models and data; *comparing* based on common attributes; *summarizing* mathematical information; *justifying* conclusions; *evaluating* data, models, and mathematical representations; *classifying* based on attributes; *explaining* phenomena and processes; *drawing conclusions* based on data; representing mathematical information; and so on.

- **vocabulary** -- Words and phrases that are used within disciplines including: (1) words and phrases with subject-specific meanings that differ from meanings used in everyday life (e.g., table); (2) general academic vocabulary used across disciplines (e.g., compare, analyze, evaluate); and (3) subject-specific words defined for use in the discipline.

- **discourse** -- Discourse includes the structures of written and oral language, as well as how members of the discipline talk, write, and participate in knowledge construction. Discipline-specific discourse has distinctive features or ways of structuring oral or written language (text structures) that provide useful ways for the content to be communicated. In mathematics, language structures include symbolic representations such as numbers, equations, two-column proofs (which can be translated into words), graphic representations (which is shorthand language for complex sets of data), and narrative (e.g., to describe or compare). If the language function is to prove, then appropriate language structures include formal two-column proofs as well as informal explanations that begin with a statement of the problem and known information, followed by a series of statements such as “And then, I know _______ because _______,” ending with what is to be proved.

- **syntax** -- The set of conventions for organizing symbols, words, and phrases together into structures (e.g., sentences, graphs, tables).

**Primary Sources of Evidence:**

- Lesson plans
- Instructional materials
- Planning Commentary *Prompt 4a-d*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECISION RULES</th>
<th>AUTOMATIC 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Some support is described, though not in specific detail, for young adolescents’ application of both terms/symbols and one or more of the additional language demands identified (function, syntax, or discourse). Examples of general language supports include describing and defining the function, modeling syntax or discourse, providing an example with little explanation, questions and answers about a language demand, whole group discussion of a language demand, providing pictures to illustrate vocabulary. Language support must go beyond opportunities to use the targeted language in the learning segment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Below 3</th>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The candidate has a superficial view of academic language, primarily focusing on isolated vocabulary and/or symbols with little or no attention to how these are used in the learning task.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3:** At Level 2,
- the primary focus of language demand is on the meaning of specific terminology (vocabulary) and/or symbols, with little attention to other language demands (function, syntax, discourse, or mathematical precision).
- Support may consist of sharing or writing definitions, discussing vocabulary or symbols, or showing pictures of vocabulary, but does not go beyond vocabulary or symbols.

**What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2:** At Level 1,
- there is a mismatch between and among the language demand(s), language function, task, and/or the language supports identified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Above 3</th>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The supports specifically address the language function, vocabulary and/or symbols, and at least one other language demand (syntax, discourse, or mathematical precision) in the context of the chosen task.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3:** At Level 4,
- the candidate plans specific language supports in relation to terminology/symbols, the language function, AND at least one other language demand (discourse, syntax, mathematical precision).
- Supports are focused on specific language demands, such as sentence starters (syntax or function), modeling how to construct an argument or explanation paragraph (function), graphic organizers tailored to organizing text (discourse or function), identifying critical elements of a language function using an example, more in-depth exploration of vocabulary development (definition, antonym, synonym, contextualized meanings, multiple meanings or contrastive uses for home and school).

**What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4:** At Level 5, the candidate meets all of Level 4 AND
- the candidate explains how the language supports are either designed or differentiated to meet the needs of young adolescents with differing language needs.
PLANNING RUBRIC 5: Planning Assessments to Monitor and Support Student Learning

MC MTH5: How are the informal and formal assessments selected or designed to monitor young adolescents' conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, AND mathematical reasoning and/or problem-solving skills?

The Guiding Question addresses the alignment of the assessments to the standards and objectives and the extent to which assessments provide multiple forms of evidence to monitor student progress throughout the learning segment. It also addresses required adaptations from IEPs or 504 plans. The array of assessments should provide evidence of students’ conceptual understanding, computational/procedural fluency, and mathematical reasoning/problem-solving skills.

Key Concepts of Rubric:
N/A

Primary Sources of Evidence:
Context for Learning Information (required supports, modifications, or accommodations for assessments)
Planning Commentary Prompt 5
Lesson Plans (assessments)
Assessment Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECISION RULES</th>
<th>AUTOMATIC 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A for this rubric</td>
<td>None of the assessment adaptations required by IEPs or 504 plans are made. (If there are no students with IEPs or 504 plans, then this criterion is not applicable.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unpacking Rubric Levels

**Level 3**

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:
- The planned assessments provide evidence of students’ conceptual understanding, procedural fluency AND mathematical reasoning/problem-solving skills at various points within the learning segment. The assessments must provide evidence of all three (conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and mathematical reasoning/problem-solving skills).

**Below 3**

Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:
- The planned assessments will yield insufficient evidence to monitor students’ conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, or mathematical reasoning/problem-solving skills within the learning segment.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,
- assessments will produce evidence of student learning, but evidence is limited. Examples of limited assessments include a single assessment or assessments for only procedures or conceptual understanding and not the other areas.
- Although assessments may provide some evidence of students learning, they do not monitor all areas of learning across the learning segment.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1,
- the assessments only focus on memorization of facts or following procedures without providing evidence of conceptual understanding or reasoning/problem-solving skills.
### Automatic Score of 1:
- If there is NO attention to ANY assessment-related IEP/504 plan requirements (e.g., more time; a scribe for written assignments), the score of 1 is applied; otherwise the evidence for the other criteria will determine the score. *(If there are no students with IEPs or 504 plans, then this criterion is not applicable.)*

#### Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:
- The array of assessments provides consistent evidence of conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, AND mathematical reasoning or problem-solving skills.
- Assessment evidence will allow the candidate to determine students’ progress toward developing conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, AND mathematical reasoning and/or problem-solving skills.

**What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3:** At Level 4,
- there are multiple forms of evidence, not just the same kind of evidence collected at different points in time or in different settings, to monitor students' development of conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, AND mathematical reasoning/problem-solving skills for the central focus. “Multiple forms of evidence” means that different types of evidence are used – e.g., explanations of thinking, drawings, explaining reasoning for problem solutions, application to word problems – and not that there is only one type of evidence on homework, exit slips, and the final test.
- The array of assessments provides evidence to track students’ progress toward developing the conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and mathematical reasoning/problem-solving skills defined by the standards and learning objectives.
- This evidence is collected for all three areas in every lesson OR the assessments correspond to a plan for the learning segment that builds understandings in one or more areas and uses that understanding to address other areas.

**What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4:** At Level 5,
- the candidate meets Level 4 AND describes how assessments are targeted and explicit in design to allow individuals or groups with specific needs to demonstrate their learning without oversimplifying the content.
- Strategic design of assessments goes beyond, for example, allowing extra time to complete an assignment or adding a challenge question.
### INSTRUCTION RUBRIC 6: LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

**MC MTH6: How does the candidate demonstrate a respectful learning environment that supports young adolescents’ engagement in learning?**

The Guiding Question addresses the type of learning environment that the candidate establishes and the degree to which it fosters respectful interactions between the candidate and young adolescent learners, and among students.

**Key Concepts of Rubric:**

- **Respect** -- A positive feeling of esteem or deference for a person and specific actions and conduct representative of that esteem. Respect can be a specific feeling of regard for the actual qualities of the one respected. It can also be conduct in accord with a specific ethic of respect. Rude conduct is usually considered to indicate a lack of respect, *disrespect*, whereas actions that honor somebody or something indicate respect. Note that respectful actions and conduct are culturally defined and may be context dependent. Note that indicators of respect may differ across cultures.

- **Rapport** -- A close and harmonious relationship in which the people or groups understand each other’s feelings or ideas and communicate well.

For the following term from the rubric, see the handbook glossary:

- **Learning environment**

**Primary Sources of Evidence:**

- Video Clip(s)
- Instruction Commentary **Prompt 2**

Note that for the Instruction Task, the commentary is intended to provide context for interpreting what is shown in the video. Candidates sometimes describe events that do not appear in the video or conflict with scenes from the video—such statements should not override evidence depicted in the video.

**DECISION RULES**

- N/A

**AUTOMATIC 1**

- None

### Unpacking Rubric Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3: In the clip(s),</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- the candidate’s interactions with young adolescent learners are respectful, demonstrate rapport (evidence of relationship between teacher and young adolescents and/or ease of interaction that goes back and forth based on relevance or engaged conversation), and young adolescents communicate easily with the candidate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The environment described in the commentary, and verified with video evidence, shows that the candidate facilitates a positive environment wherein young adolescent learners are willing to answer questions and work together without the candidate or other learners criticizing their responses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- There is evidence of mutual respect among young adolescents. Examples include attentive listening while other young adolescents speak, respectful attention to another young adolescent’s idea (even if disagreeing), working together with a partner or group to accomplish tasks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Below 3

| Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3: | The clip(s):
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Do not exhibit evidence of positive relationships and interactions between teacher and young adolescent learners. | • Reveal a focus on classroom management and maintaining young adolescent behavior and routines rather than engaging young adolescents in learning.

What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3: At Level 2,

• although clip(s) reveal the candidate’s respectful interactions with young adolescents, there is an emphasis on candidate’s rigid control of young adolescent behaviors, discussions, and other activities in ways that limit and do not support learning.

What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: At Level 1, there are two ways that evidence is scored:

1. The clip(s) reveal evidence of candidate-young adolescent or young adolescent-young adolescent interactions that discourage young adolescent contributions, disparage the young adolescent(s), or take away from learning.

2. The classroom management is so weak that the candidate is not able to, or does not successfully, redirect young adolescents, or the young adolescents themselves find it difficult to engage in learning tasks because of disruptive behavior.

Above 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:</th>
<th>The clip(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• reveal a positive learning environment that includes tasks/discussions that challenge young adolescent learner thinking and encourage respectful young adolescent-young adolescent interaction.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,

• the learning environment supports learning tasks that appropriately challenge young adolescent learners by promoting higher-order thinking or application to develop new learning. There must be evidence that the environment is challenging for young adolescents. Examples include: young adolescents cannot answer immediately, but need to think to respond; the candidate asks higher-order thinking questions; young adolescents are trying to apply their initial learning to another context.

• The learning environment encourages and supports mutual respect among young adolescents, e.g., to discuss ideas respectfully with each other.

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5,

• the learning environment encourages young adolescent learners to express, debate, and evaluate differing perspectives on content with each other. Perspectives could be from curricular sources, young adolescents’ ideas, and/or lived experiences.
### INSTRUCTION RUBRIC 7: Engaging Students in Learning

**MC MTH7:** How does the candidate actively engage young adolescents in developing conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, AND/OR mathematical reasoning and/or problem-solving skills?

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate provides video evidence of engaging young adolescents in meaningful tasks and discussions to develop their understanding of mathematical concepts, procedures, and/or reasoning/problem-solving skills.

#### Key Concepts of Rubric:
For the following terms from the rubric, see the handbook glossary:
- *Engaging students in learning*
- *Assets (personal/cultural/community/developmental)*

#### Primary Sources of Evidence:
- Video Clip(s)
- Instruction Commentary **Prompt 3**

Note that for the Instruction Task, the commentary is intended to provide context for interpreting what is shown in the video. Candidates sometimes describe events that do not appear in the video or conflict with scenes from the video—such statements should not override evidence depicted in the video.

#### DECISION RULES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion 1 (primary): Engagement in learning tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criterion 2: Connections between students’ academic learning and/or personal/cultural/community/developmental assets and new learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place greater weight or consideration on the criterion 1 (engagement in learning tasks).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### AUTOMATIC 1
- None

### Unpacking Rubric Levels

#### Level 3

**Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:**
- The clip(s) show that the young adolescents are engaged in learning tasks that provide opportunities for young adolescents to focus on conceptual understanding, procedural understandings, AND reasoning and/or problem solving skills. Although these content understandings are evident in conversations, they are addressed at a cursory level.
- The clip(s) show the candidate making connections to young adolescents’ prior academic learning to help them develop the new content or skills.

#### Below 3

**Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:**
- Young adolescents are participating in tasks that provide little opportunity to develop conceptual understanding or mathematical reasoning and/or problem-solving skills.

**What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3:** At Level 2,
- young adolescents are participating in rote tasks that primarily focus on following step-by-step procedures and provide little opportunity to develop conceptual understanding or mathematical reasoning and/or problem-solving skills.
- The structure of the learning task or the way in which it is implemented constrains young adolescent development of content and skills.
- In addition, the candidate may refer to young adolescents’ learning from prior units, but the references are indirect or unclear and do not facilitate new learning.
| What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2: | At Level 1,  
|   |  
|   | the learning tasks seen in the video clip(s) have little relation to the central focus identified.  
|   | In addition, either the candidate is not using young adolescents’ prior academic learning and personal/cultural/community experiences and development to build new learning OR the links do not make sense to the young adolescents so they are unable to use them.  

| Above 3 Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3: |  
|   | The learning tasks as seen in the clip(s) are structured to engage young adolescents to develop understandings of concepts and procedures through mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills.  
|   | Connections between young adolescents’ prior academic learning and personal/cultural/community experiences—in and out of school—and developmental assets support the new learning.  

| What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: | At Level 4,  
|   | the learning tasks in the clip(s) include structures or scaffolding that promote the learning of concepts, procedures AND mathematical reasoning and/or problem-solving skills. Young adolescents must interact with the content in ways that are likely to either extend initial understandings or surface misunderstandings that the candidate can then address.  
|   | In addition, the candidate draws upon not only prior academic learning, but also young adolescents’ knowledge and experience from outside school and knowledge of their developmental levels to support new learning.  

| What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: | At Level 5,  
|   | the learning tasks as seen in the clip(s) are structured or scaffolded so that young adolescents will develop and use concepts, procedures, AND reasoning and/or problem solving skills in ways that are appropriately challenging and directly related to new learning.  
|   | In addition, the candidate encourages young adolescents to connect and use their prior academic and personal/cultural/community/developmental knowledge and experiences to support new learning.  

|
**INSTRUCTION RUBRIC 8: Deepening Student Learning**

**MC MTH8:** How does the candidate elicit responses to promote thinking and to develop conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, AND mathematical reasoning and/or problem-solving skills?

The Guiding Question addresses how, in the video clip(s), the candidate brings forth and builds on young adolescent responses to guide learning; this can occur during whole class discussions, small group discussions, or consultations with individual young adolescents.

**Key Concepts of Rubric:**
- Significant content inaccuracies

**Primary Sources of Evidence:**
- Video Clip(s)
- Instruction Commentary Prompt 4a

Note that for the Instruction Task, the commentary is intended to provide context for interpreting what is shown in the video. Candidates sometimes describe events that do not appear in the video or conflict with scenes from the video—such statements should not override evidence depicted in the video.

**DECISION RULES**
- N/A for this rubric

**AUTOMATIC 1**
- Pattern of significant content inaccuracies or a significant error in content that is core to the central focus or a key standard for the learning segment

### Unpacking Rubric Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The candidate prompts young adolescents to offer responses that require thinking related to either concepts and procedures OR to mathematical reasoning and problem solving, e.g., by using “how” and “why” questions. Some instruction may be characterized by initial questions focusing on facts to lay a basis for later higher-order questions in the clip.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Below 3</th>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In the clip(s), classroom interactions provide young adolescents with limited or no opportunities to think and learn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 1:** At Level 2,
- the candidate asks questions that elicit right/wrong or yes/no answers and do little to encourage young adolescents to think about the content being taught.

**What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2:** At Level 1,
- there are few opportunities shown in the clip(s) that young adolescents were able to express ideas.

**Automatic Score of 1 is given when:**
- There is a pattern of significant content inaccuracies that will lead to young adolescent misunderstandings.
- The candidate makes a significant error in content (e.g., introducing an inaccurate definition of a central concept before young adolescents work independently) that is core to the central focus or a key standard for the learning segment.
Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:
- In the clip(s), the candidate uses young adolescent ideas and thinking to develop young adolescents’ mathematical learning or their abilities to evaluate their own learning.

What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,
- the candidate follows up on young adolescent responses to encourage the young adolescent or his/her peers to explore or build on the ideas expressed.
- The candidate uses this strategy to develop young adolescents’ understanding of mathematics concepts, procedures AND reasoning and/or problem-solving skills.
- Examples of “building on young adolescent responses” includes referring to a previous young adolescent response in developing a point or an argument; calling on the young adolescent to elaborate on what s/he said; posing questions to guide a young adolescent discussion; soliciting young adolescent examples and asking another young adolescent to identify what they have in common; asking a young adolescent to summarize a lengthy discussion or rambling explanation; and asking another young adolescent to respond to a young adolescent comment or answer a question posed by a young adolescent to move instruction forward.

What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5,
- there is evidence in the clip(s) that the candidate structures and supports young adolescent-young adolescent conversations and interactions that facilitate young adolescents’ ability to evaluate and self-monitor their learning.
**INSTRUCTION RUBRIC 9: Subject-Specific Pedagogy: Using Representations**

**MC MTH9:** How does the candidate use representations to develop young adolescents’ understanding of mathematical concepts and procedures?

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate uses representations (e.g., charts, graphs, metaphors, equations) in the clip(s) to build students’ understanding of mathematical content.

**Key Concepts of Rubric:**
- *Representation* -- the act of capturing a mathematical concept or relationship in some visual, symbolic or physical form OR the form itself (adapted from NCTM *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics*, p. 67)

**Primary Sources of Evidence:**
- Video Clip(s)
- Instruction Commentary *Prompt 4b*

Note that for the Instruction Task, the commentary is intended to provide context for interpreting what is shown in the video. Candidates sometimes describe events that do not appear in the video or conflict with scenes from the video—such statements should not override evidence depicted in the video.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECISION RULES</th>
<th>• N/A for this rubric</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUTOMATIC 1</td>
<td>• Representations that are not appropriate or used inappropriately for the content being taught</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unpacking Rubric Levels**

**Level 3**

Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:
- In the clip(s), the candidate guides conversation and/or structures explorations using representations that help young adolescents develop understanding of concepts and procedures.

**Below 3**

Evidence that demonstrates performance **below 3**:
- In the clip(s), the candidate is not using representations effectively to guide young adolescent learning.

**What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3:** At Level 2,
- the candidate attempts to use representations to facilitate understanding of concepts and procedures, but the connections between them are not strong enough or clear enough to be effective.

**What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2:** At Level 1,
- the candidate stays focused on facts or procedures and fails to make connections to concepts.

**Automatic Score of 1 is given when:**
- The representations are significantly inappropriate for the intended learning.
- The use of the representations will lead to significant young adolescent misunderstandings.
### Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:
- In the clip(s), the candidate is making strategic choice or use of representations to develop young adolescents’ mathematical learning.

### What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3: At Level 4,
- in the clip(s), the candidate poses carefully chosen problems or visual representations to encourage young adolescents to think more deeply about concepts and procedures.

### What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5,
- in the clip(s), the candidate meets Level 4 AND structures and supports young adolescent to young adolescent conversations to help them evaluate their own use of representations to explore concepts and conjectures and to solve problems.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>INSTRUCTION RUBRIC 10: Analyzing Teaching Effectiveness</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MC MTH10: How does the candidate use evidence to evaluate and change teaching practice to meet young adolescents' varied learning needs?</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate examines the teaching and learning in the video clip(s) and proposes what s/he could have done differently to better support the needs of diverse students. The candidate justifies the changes based on student needs and references to research and/or theory including young adolescent development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Key Concepts of Rubric:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Primary Sources of Evidence:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Video Clip(s) (for evidence of student learning)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Instruction Commentary Prompt 5** |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DECISION RULES</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Criterion 1 (primary): Proposed changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Criterion 2: Connections to research/theory including young adolescent development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Place greater weight or consideration on criterion 1 (proposed changes).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• In cases where there is an additional middle childhood specific criterion present, always place greater weight or consideration on the content pedagogy criterion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>AUTOMATIC 1</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Unpacking Rubric Levels** |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Level 3</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The proposed changes in teaching practice relate to the central focus and address specific learning needs of the whole class from lessons that were depicted in the video clip(s). Proposed changes noted by the candidate should be related to the lessons that are seen or referenced in the clip(s), but do not need to be exclusively from what is seen in the clip(s) alone. This means that since only portions of the lessons implemented will be captured by the clip(s), candidates can suggest changes to any part of the lesson(s) referenced in the clip(s), even if those portions of the lesson(s) are not captured in the clip(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The candidate refers to research or theory in relation to the plans to support young adolescent learning. The connections between the research/theory and the tasks are not clearly made.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Below 3</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The changes proposed by the candidate are not directly related to young adolescent learning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3:</strong> At Level 2,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• the changes address improvements in teaching practice that mainly focus on how the candidate structures or organizes learning tasks, with a superficial connection to young adolescent learning. There is little detail on the changes in relation to either the central focus or the specific learning that is the focus of the video clip(s). Examples include asking additional higher-order questions without providing examples, improving directions, or including more group work without indicating how the group work will address specific learning needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If a candidate’s proposed changes have nothing to do with the central focus, this rubric cannot be scored beyond a Level 2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2:** | At Level 1,  
• the changes are not supported by evidence of young adolescent learning seen in the clip(s). |
|---|---|
| **Above 3** | **Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:**  
• The proposed changes relate to the central focus and address individual and collective needs that were within the lessons seen in the video clip(s).  
• The changes in teaching practice are supported by research and/or theory, including understandings of young adolescent development. |
| **What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3:** | At Level 4,  
• the changes proposed are clearly related to needs of individual and groups that were seen in the video clip(s).  
• The candidate explains how research or theory is related to the changes proposed. Candidates may cite research or theory in their commentary, or refer to the ideas and principles from the research; either connection is acceptable, as long as they clearly connect the research/theory to the proposed changes. |
| **What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4:** | At Level 5,  
• the candidate meets Level 4 AND explains how principles of research or theory, including developmental theory, **support or frame the proposed changes**. The justifications are explicit, well-articulated, and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the research/theory principles that are clearly reflected in the explanation of the changes. |
**ASSESSMENT RUBRIC 11: Analysis of Student Learning**

**MC MTH11: How does the candidate analyze evidence of young adolescent learning of conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, AND mathematical reasoning and/or problem-solving skills?**

The Guiding Question addresses the candidate’s analysis of student work to identify patterns of learning across the class.

### Key Concepts of Rubric:
- **Aligned** – Evaluation criteria, learning objectives and analysis are aligned with each other.
- **Evaluation criteria** -- Evaluation criteria should indicate differences in level of performance, e.g., a rubric, a checklist of desired attributes, points assigned to different parts of the assessment. Summative grades are not evaluation criteria. Evaluation criteria must be relevant to the learning objectives, though they may also include attention to other desired features of the assessment response, e.g., neatness, spelling.

For the following term from the rubric, see the handbook glossary:
- **Patterns of learning**

### Primary Sources of Evidence:
- Evaluation criteria
- Student work samples

### Assessment Commentary Prompt 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECISION RULES</th>
<th>AUTOMATIC 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A for this rubric</td>
<td>Significant misalignment between evaluation criteria, learning objectives, and/or analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Unpacking Rubric Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The analysis is an accurate listing of what young adolescents did correctly and incorrectly, and is aligned with the summary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Some general differences in learning across the class are identified.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Below 3</th>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The analysis is superficial (e.g., primarily irrelevant global statements) or focuses only on partial data (on right or wrong answers or only on procedures or facts).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The analysis is contradicted by the work sample evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The analysis is based on an inconsistent alignment with evaluation criteria and/or standards/objectives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3:** There are two ways that evidence is scored at Level 2:

1. Although aligned with the summary, the analysis presents an incomplete picture of young adolescent learning by only addressing either successes or errors.
2. The analysis does not address conceptual understanding, reasoning, or problem solving but focuses solely on procedures or facts.

**What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2:** There are two ways that evidence is scored at Level 1:

1. The analysis is superficial because it ignores important evidence from the work samples, focusing on trivial aspects.
2. The conclusions in the analysis are not supported by the work samples or the summary of learning.
### Automatic Score of 1 is given when:
- There is a significant lack of alignment between evaluation criteria, learning objectives, and/or analysis.
- A lack of alignment can be caused by a lack of relevant criteria to evaluate young adolescent performance on the learning objectives.

### Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:
- The analysis:
  - Identifies patterns of learning (quantitative and qualitative) that summarize what young adolescents know, are able to do, and still need to learn.
  - Describes patterns for the whole class, groups, or individuals.
  - Is supported with evidence from the work samples and is consistent with the summary.

### What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3:
- At Level 4,
  - the analysis describes patterns across the class in terms of what young adolescents know and are able to do and where they need to improve.
  - Specific examples from work samples are used to illustrate whole class patterns.
  - The analysis goes beyond a listing of young adolescents’ successes and errors, to an explanation of young adolescent understanding in relation to their performance on the identified assessment. An exhaustive list of what young adolescents did right and wrong, or the % of young adolescents with correct or incorrect responses, should be scored at Level 3, as that does not constitute a pattern of young adolescent learning. A pattern of young adolescent learning goes beyond these quantitative differences to identify underlying content understandings, misunderstandings, or partial understandings that are contributing to the quantitative differences.

### What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4:
- At Level 5,
  - the candidate uses specific evidence from work samples to demonstrate qualitative patterns of understanding. The analysis uses these qualitative patterns to interpret the range of similar correct or incorrect responses for individuals or groups (quantitative patterns) and to determine elements of what students learned and what would be most productive to work on. The qualitative patterns may include struggles, partial understandings, and/or attempts at solutions.
## ASSESSMENT RUBRIC 12: Providing Feedback to Guide Learning

**MC MTH12: What type of feedback does the candidate provide to focus students?**

The Guiding Question addresses the evidence of feedback provided to the focus students. Feedback may be written on the three student work samples or provided in a video/audio format. The feedback should identify what students are doing well and what needs to improve in relation to the learning objectives.

### Key Concepts of Rubric:
- **Significant content inaccuracies** – see Automatic 1 explanation
- **Developmentally inappropriate feedback** – Feedback addressing concepts, skills or procedures well above or below the content assessed (without clearly identified need) OR feedback that is not appropriate for the developmental level of the student (e.g., lengthy written explanations for English learners, feedback that requires abstract or conceptual thinking beyond the developmental level of the student, or feedback to a student with an explanation that references a concept later in the curriculum).

### Primary Sources of Evidence:
- Student work samples
- Evidence of written or oral feedback

### Assessment Commentary

**Prompt 2a-b**

### DECISION RULES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECISION RULES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### AUTOMATIC 1

- Feedback with significant content inaccuracies
- No evidence of feedback for one or more focus students

### Unpacking Rubric Levels

**Level 3**

**Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:**

- The feedback is specific enough to assist the focus students in understanding specific strengths OR needs for improvement. The candidate MUST provide young adolescents with qualitative feedback about their performance that is aligned with objectives. Checkmarks, points deducted, grades, or scores are not enough to meet Level 3, even if they distinguish errors from correct responses.

**Below 3**

**Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:**

- Evidence of feedback is general, unrelated to the assessed learning objectives, developmentally inappropriate, inaccurate, or missing for one or more focus students.

### What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3:

- At Level 2,
  - feedback is related to the learning objectives, but is too vague to assist the focus students in understanding specific strengths or needs for improvement.

### What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2:

- There are two ways that evidence is scored at Level 1:
  - Feedback is not related to the learning objectives.
  - Feedback is not developmentally appropriate

### Automatic Score of 1 is given when:

- Feedback includes content inaccuracies that will misdirect the student(s).
- There is no evidence of feedback for one or more focus students.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Above 3</th>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Feedback is specific, accurate, related to assessed learning objectives, and addresses students’ strengths AND needs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3:** At Level 4,
• accurate, specific feedback addresses both strengths and needs.

**What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4:** At Level 5,
• the candidate meets Level 4 AND describes how s/he will help focus young adolescents use feedback to monitor their own learning.
### ASSESSMENT RUBRIC 13: Student Use of Feedback

**MC MTH13:** How does the candidate provide opportunities for focus students to use the feedback to guide their further learning?

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate explains how they expect focus students to use feedback in order to improve their learning.

### Key Concepts of Rubric:
N/A

### Primary Sources of Evidence:
- Evidence of feedback (written, audio/video)
- Assessment Commentary Prompt 2c

### DECISION RULES
- N/A for this rubric
- None

#### Unpacking Rubric Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Candidate uses specific points of feedback given to the focus students and describes <strong>how</strong> these students can use and connect the feedback to improve either current or future work related to the assessed learning objectives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Below 3</th>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Opportunities for applying feedback are superficially described or absent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3:** At Level 2,
- the description of how focus young adolescents will use feedback is very general or superficial. Details about **how** the young adolescents will apply the feedback are missing.

**What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2:** At Level 1,
- opportunities for applying feedback are not described, OR
- there is NO evidence of feedback for Rubric 12 for one or more focus students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Above 3</th>
<th>Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Support for young adolescents to apply feedback is described in enough detail to understand how young adolescents will develop in areas identified for growth and/or continue to deepen areas of strength.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3:** At Level 4,
- the candidate describes planned or implemented support for young adolescents to apply feedback on strengths and weaknesses to further develop their learning in relation to the learning objectives. This can be corrections of misunderstandings or partial understandings or extensions of learning related to the learning objectives.

**What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4:** At Level 5,
- the candidate meets Level 4 AND describes planned or implemented support for young adolescents to apply feedback in ways that will prepare or guide them during future learning opportunities in different contexts or topics.
### ASSESSMENT RUBRIC 14: Analyzing Students’ Language Use and Mathematics Learning

**MC MTH14: How does the candidate analyze young adolescents’ use of language to develop content understanding?**

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate explains the opportunities students had to use the academic language associated with the identified language function. These opportunities should support understanding of the central focus and develop mathematical understanding.

### Key Concepts of Rubric:

- **language demands** -- Specific ways that academic language (vocabulary, functions, discourse, syntax) is used by students to participate in learning tasks through reading, writing, listening, and/or speaking to demonstrate their disciplinary understanding.

- **language functions** -- The content and language focus of the learning task represented by the active verbs within the learning outcomes. Common language functions in mathematics include describing mathematical phenomena; predicting from models and data; comparing based on common attributes; summarizing mathematical information; justifying conclusions; evaluating data, models, and mathematical representations; classifying based on attributes; explaining phenomena and processes; drawing conclusions based on data; representing mathematical information; and so on.

- **vocabulary** -- Words and phrases that are used within disciplines including: (1) words and phrases with subject-specific meanings that differ from meanings used in everyday life (e.g., table); (2) general academic vocabulary used across disciplines (e.g., compare, analyze, evaluate); and (3) subject-specific words defined for use in the discipline.

- **discourse** -- Discourse includes the structures of written and oral language, as well as how members of the discipline talk, write, and participate in knowledge construction. Discipline-specific discourse has distinctive features or ways of structuring oral or written language (text structures) that provide useful ways for the content to be communicated. In mathematics, language structures include symbolic representations such as numbers, equations, two-column proofs (which can be translated into words), graphic representations (which is shorthand language for complex sets of data), and narrative (e.g., to describe or compare). If the language function is to prove, then appropriate language structures include formal two-column proofs as well as informal explanations that begin with a statement of the problem and known information, followed by a series of statements such as “And then, I know ______ because ______,” ending with what is to be proved.

- **syntax** -- The set of conventions for organizing symbols, words, and phrases together into structures (e.g., sentences, graphs, tables).

### Primary Sources of Evidence:

Student work samples and/or video clip(s) from Task 2

Assessment Commentary **Prompt 3**

### DECISION RULES

- **N/A for this rubric**

### AUTOMATIC 1

- Overlooking students’ significant repeated misuse of vocabulary
- Description or explanation of language use is not consistent with the evidence submitted.
### Unpacking Rubric Levels

#### Level 3
**Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:**
- The candidate explains and identifies evidence that the students used or attempted to use the identified language function AND vocabulary and/or symbols or an additional language demand (mathematical precision, syntax, and/or discourse) associated with the language function. It is not sufficient for the candidate to point to the artifact and make a general statement that, for example, “As seen in the work samples, the student used the vocabulary as they analyzed data.” The candidate must explain how the students used the identified language, e.g., “Students 1 and 2 used the vocabulary and also identified what they did mathematically to go from one step to the next (the component of explanations identified) in their explanations. Student 3 used a mixture of vocabulary and everyday language in the explanation (e.g., this thing here, when referring to the exponent), but included both components of explanation.”

#### Below 3
**Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:**
- The candidate’s identification of student’s language use is inappropriate or limited to vocabulary.
- Students’ repeated misuse of vocabulary goes unaddressed by the candidate.

**What distinguishes a Level 2 from a Level 3:** At Level 2,
- the candidate’s description of students’ language use is limited to vocabulary that is associated with the language function. This can include a failure to use targeted vocabulary, attempts to use it, or actual use. The candidate does not explain how students’ use of the vocabulary is related to learning or the language function.

**What distinguishes a Level 1 from a Level 2:** At Level 1,
- the candidate identifies language use that is unrelated or not clearly related to the identified language demands (function, vocabulary, and additional demands).

**Automatic Score of 1 is given when:**
- Candidate does not address students’ significant repeated misuse of vocabulary.
- Candidate’s description or explanation of language use is not consistent with the evidence provided.

#### Above 3
**Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:**
- Candidate identifies and explains specific evidence of student use of the language function and vocabulary and/or symbols along with an additional language demand (syntax or discourse).
- Students use the language in ways that demonstrate their content understandings.
- Candidate explains and provides evidence of language use and content learning for students with distinct language needs.

**What distinguishes a Level 4 from a Level 3:** At Level 4,
- the candidate identifies and explains evidence that students are able to use the language function AND associated language demands (vocabulary and/or symbols plus mathematical precision, syntax, and/or discourse). The explanation uses specific evidence from the video or work sample. The discussion of student language use demonstrates how this use develops content understandings.
What distinguishes a Level 5 from a Level 4: At Level 5,
- the candidate meets Level 4 AND explains and provides evidence that students with distinct language needs are using the language for content learning.
### ASSESSMENT RUBRIC 15: Using Assessment to Inform Instruction

**MC MTH15**: How does the candidate use the analysis of what young adolescents know and are able to do to plan next steps in instruction?

The Guiding Question addresses how the candidate uses conclusions from the analysis of student work and research or theory, including developmental theory, to propose the next steps of instruction. Next steps should be related to the standards/objectives assessed and based on the assessment that was analyzed. They also should address the whole class, groups with similar needs, and/or individual students.

**Key Concepts of Rubric:**
N/A

**Primary Sources of Evidence:**
- Student work samples
- Evidence of oral or written feedback
- Assessment Commentary Prompts 1 and 4

**DECISION RULES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion 1 (primary): Next steps for instruction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criterion 2: Connections to research/theory (including young adolescent development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place greater weight or consideration on criterion 1 (next steps for instruction).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In cases where there is an additional middle childhood specific criterion present, always place greater weight or consideration on the content pedagogy criterion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AUTOMATIC 1**
- None

### Unpacking Rubric Levels

**Level 3**

**Evidence that demonstrates performance at Level 3:**
- The next steps focus on support for young adolescent learning that is general for the whole class, not specifically targeted for individual students.
- The support addresses learning related to the standards and learning objectives that were assessed.
- The candidate refers to research or theory when describing the next steps. The connections between the research/theory (or young adolescent development) and the next steps are not clearly made.

**Below 3**

**Evidence that demonstrates performance below 3:**
- The next steps are not directly focused on young adolescent learning needs that were identified in the analysis of the assessment.
- Candidate does not explain how next steps are related to young adolescent learning.

**What distinguishes Level 2 from Level 3:** At Level 2,
- the next steps are related to the analysis of young adolescent learning and the standards and learning objectives assessed.
- The next steps address improvements in teaching practice that mainly focus on how the candidate structures or organizes learning tasks, with a superficial connection to young adolescent learning. There is little detail on the changes in relation to the assessed student learning. Examples include repeating instruction or focusing on improving conditions for learning such as pacing or classroom management, with no clear connections to how changes address the young adolescent learning needs identified.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What distinguishes Level 1 from Level 2: There are three ways that evidence is scored at Level 1:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Next steps do not follow from the analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Next steps are unrelated to the standards and learning objectives assessed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Next steps are not described in sufficient detail to understand them, e.g., “more practice” or “go over the test.”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Above 3 Evidence that demonstrates performance above 3:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Next steps are directly focused on specific young adolescent learning needs related to conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and/or reasoning/problem-solving skills, and are supported by research and/or theory, including young adolescent development.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>What distinguishes Level 4 from Level 3: At Level 4,</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The next steps are clearly aimed at supporting specific young adolescent needs for either individuals (2 or more young adolescents) or groups with similar needs related to one or more of the three areas of mathematical learning (conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, mathematical reasoning and/or problem-solving skills).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The candidate discusses how the research or theory is related to the next steps in ways that make some level of sense given their students and central focus. They may cite the research or theory in their discussion, or they may refer to the ideas from the research. Either is acceptable, as long as they clearly connect the research/theory to their next steps.</td>
</tr>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>What distinguishes Level 5 from Level 4: At Level 5,</th>
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<tr>
<td>• the next steps are clearly aimed at supporting specific young adolescent needs for both individuals and groups with similar needs related to one or more of the three areas of mathematical learning (conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, mathematical reasoning and/or problem-solving skills).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The candidate explains how principles of research or theory, including developmental theory, support the proposed changes, with clear connections between the principles and the next steps. The explanations are explicit, well-articulated, and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the research or theoretical principles involved.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>