

Table 1: Math Descriptors – Applying Depth of Knowledge Levels for Mathematics (Webb, 2002) & NAEP 2002 Mathematics Levels of Complexity (M. Petit, Center for Assessment 2003, K. Hess, Center for Assessment, updated 2006)

Level 1 Recall	Level 2 Skills/Concepts	Level 3 Strategic Thinking	Level 4 Extended Thinking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recall, observe, or recognize a fact, definition, term, or property b. Apply/compute a well-known algorithm (e.g., sum, quotient) c. Apply a formula d. Determine the area or perimeter of rectangles or triangles given a drawing and labels e. Identify a plane or three dimensional figure f. Measure g. Perform a specified or routine procedure (e.g., apply rules for rounding) h. Evaluate an expression i. Solve a one-step word problem j. Retrieve information from a table or graph k. Recall, identify, or make conversions between and among representations or numbers (fractions, decimals, and percents), or within and between customary and metric measures l. Locate numbers on a number line, or points on a coordinate grid m. Solve linear equations n. Represent math relationships in words, pictures, or symbols o. Read, write, and compare decimals in scientific notation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Classify plane and three dimensional figures b. Interpret information from a simple graph c. Use models to represent mathematical concepts d. Solve a routine problem requiring multiple steps/decision points, or the application of multiple concepts e. Compare and/or contrast figures or statements f. Construct 2-dimensional patterns for 3-dimensional models, such as cylinders and cones g. Provide justifications for steps in a solution process h. Extend a pattern i. Retrieve information from a table, graph, or figure and use it solve a problem requiring multiple steps j. Translate between tables, graphs, words and symbolic notation k. Make direct translations between problem situations and symbolic notation l. Select a procedure according to criteria and perform it m. Specify and explain relationships between facts, terms, properties, or operations n. Compare, classify, organize, estimate, or order data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Interpret information from a complex graph b) Explain thinking when more than one response is possible c) Make and/or justify conjectures d) Use evidence to develop logical arguments for a concept e) Use concepts to solve non-routine problems f) Perform procedure with multiple steps and multiple decision points g) Generalize a pattern h) Describe, compare, and contrast solution methods i) Formulate a mathematical model for a complex situation j) Provide mathematical justifications k) Solve a multiple- step problem and provide support with a mathematical explanation that justifies the answer l) Solve 2-step linear equations/inequalities in one variable over the rational numbers, interpret solution(s) in the original context, and verify reasonableness of results m) Translate between a problem situation and symbolic notation that is not a direct translation n) Formulate an original problem, given a situation o) Analyze the similarities and differences between procedures p) Draw conclusion from observations or data, citing evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Relate mathematical concepts to other content areas b) Relate mathematical concepts to real-world applications in new situations c) Apply a mathematical model to illuminate a problem, situation d) Conduct a project that specifies a problem, identifies solution paths, solves the problem, and reports results e) Design a mathematical model to inform and solve a practical or abstract situation f) Develop generalizations of the results obtained and the strategies used and apply them to new problem situations g) Apply one approach among many to solve problems h) Apply understanding in a novel way, providing an argument/justification for the application <p><i>NOTE: Level 4 involves such things as complex restructuring of data or establishing and evaluating criteria to solve problems.</i></p>