

Contents

Preface	vii
Preface to Curriculum Focal Points for Prekindergarten through Grade 8 Mathematics	viii
Acknowledgments	ix
1. Introduction	1
Purpose of This Guide.....	1
Purpose of Curriculum Focal Points	1
The Impact of Focal Points on Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.....	2
Using This <i>Focus in Grade 6</i> Book.....	2
Bringing Focus into the Classroom: Instruction That Builds Understanding and Fluency	3
An instructional progression approach	3
In-depth instructional conversations	4
Using mathematical representations.....	4
An Important Grade 6 Issue: Developing Fluency with Multiplication and Division of Fractions and Decimals.....	5
Curriculum Focal Points and Connections for Grade 6.....	6
2. Focusing on Multiplication and Division of Fractions and Decimals	7
Instructional Progression for Multiplication and Division of Fractions and Decimals	7
Early Foundations in Multiplication and Division of Fractions and Decimals.....	7
Early Foundations in Whole-Number Multiplication and Division	8
Early Foundations in Understanding Fractions and Decimals.....	9
Building Understanding of, and Fluency with, Multiplication and Division of Fractions and Decimals	10
Fractions	11
Multiplying fractions.....	11
Modeling multiplication with fractions.....	12
Procedures for multiplying fractions.....	18
Dividing fractions.....	20
Modeling division with fractions.....	22
Modeling measurement division	22
Modeling partitive division	25
Procedures for dividing fractions	30
Decimals	31
Fraction and decimal equivalence.....	31
Place-value patterns in multiplying and dividing by powers of 10	33
Multiplication with decimals.....	34

Contents — Continued

Division with decimals	36
Strengthening Multiplication and Division of Fractions and Decimals through Problem Solving	40
Strengthening Understanding through Connections.....	42
Connections in later grades	44
Developing Depth of Understanding	44
3. Focusing on Ratio and Rate	45
Instructional Progression for Ratio and Rate.....	45
Early Foundations in Ratio and Rate.....	45
Focusing on Ratio and Rate.....	47
Moving from additive to multiplicative reasoning.....	47
Using fractions to build an understanding of ratios.....	49
Using equivalent fractions to build an understanding of equivalent ratios	57
Understanding rate as a special kind of ratio	62
Strengthening Connections among Multiplication, Division, Fractions, and Ratios through Problem Solving.....	66
Strengthening Understanding of Ratio, Rate, and Unit Rate through Connections	69
Connections in later grades	72
Developing Depth of Understanding	73
4. Focusing on Expressions and Equations.....	75
Instructional Progression for Expressions and Equations	75
Early Foundations in Mathematical Expressions and Equations.....	75
Focusing on Writing, Interpreting, and Using Expressions and Equations	77
Using language to develop understanding of expressions and equations	79
Developing expressions and equations to represent a sequence	82
Strengthening Understanding of Expressions and Equations through Problem Solving.....	93
Strengthening Understanding of Expressions and Equations through Connections.....	97
Connections in later grades	98
Developing Depth of Understanding	99
References.....	100