

## Help Your Students Prepare for the Mathematics Section of the HSEE

Although each state individually determines the content on the HSEE, they all include a mathematics section. In most states, the following mathematical content strands are addressed:

- number sense
- measurement and geometry
- algebra and functions
- statistics, data analysis, and probability
- mathematical reasoning

If you are not a mathematics teacher, what can you do to help your students prepare for the exam? Start the first five minutes of each class period with an HSEE sample math question. These are usually available from the mathematics department chair or the school principal. You might offer token prizes (e.g., a piece of candy, an extra point on a weekly exam, etc.) for the students who successfully complete the questions.

Integrate the mathematics content into your curriculum as much as possible. Work collaboratively with the mathematics teachers in your school. Develop projects and activities that provide the opportunity for students to apply the mathematical concepts to something real. For example, if the students are studying life insurance, teach them how to read life expectancy and actuary tables. Ask your students to research various policies and compare and contrast the costs. Then, have them create a spreadsheet with their findings. You can expand this activity by asking the students to analyze what will happen to the cost of the policy when people have different lifestyle issues (e.g., smoking, being overweight, working in a hazardous occupation, etc.) or when different riders are attached. Students will need to apply the order of mathematical operations as well as some algebraic formulas. Last, have the students interview someone in the insurance career field to find out the math he or she needs to perform the job successfully.