

## What does a school staff need to know about the definition of numeracy?

This learning guide is designed for use by instructional leaders and learning communities or as a self-paced study to explore numeracy



This learning guide is intended to be used after viewing the Alberta Education video clip [Numeracy: A World to Investigate](#).

The definition of numeracy is evolving and this video offers thought-provoking examples to help educators rethink what numeracy means.

### Key understandings:

- Being numerate means going beyond the basic skills of solving simple arithmetic problems to acquiring, creating, connecting and understanding information.
- Numeracy involves competency in both quantitative and spatial reasoning.
- Numeracy is a foundation for continuous learning and provides individuals with the ability to achieve personal goals, develop knowledge and potential, and participate fully in society.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges us to rethink what being a fully numerate person means.
- Responding effectively to students' numeracy needs requires all teachers to work collaboratively to develop numeracy skills and habits of mind.
- Students need opportunities to use numeracy knowledge and skills in a variety of contexts to master and efficiently transfer them from one area to another.
- The diversity of learners in Alberta illustrates the need for a broad, inclusive approach to numeracy that addresses individual learners' needs.

### Questions for discussion:

- How do the examples in this video challenge or affirm what you know about numeracy?
- What would be the characteristics of a person who has acquired numeracy skills?
- Numeracy is foundational to all learning. How does this impact your work as a teacher?
- What does the video suggest as a next step for you?

### For more information:

[Literacy and Numeracy](#) (Alberta Education)

[Numeracy for All](#) (ARPDC)

[The Power of Asking Good Questions: Creating a Culture of Critical Thinking](#) with Keith Van De Keere and Debbie Duvall (ERLC)

[Administrators Guide to Support Mathematics Implementation](#) (ERLC)

[Seven Mathematical Processes in Action](#) (ERLC)

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