

## Review of Current Independent Practice Routines

**Directions:** Use the following prompts to guide team discussion of the independent practice (homework) assignments given to your students for the next unit.

**Purpose of homework (independent practice):**

1. Why is it important for our students to engage in formative independent practice?

2. Why is it important that our team develop *common* independent practice assignments for students?

**Nature of homework (independent practice):**

3. How do our daily independent practice assignments support student understanding of identified learning standards for the unit?

4. To what degree is the level of rigor (cognitive-demand expectations) of the mathematical tasks for independent practice balanced?

5. What is the duration of a typical independent practice assignment?

6. How do we determine common scoring agreements and identify student proficiency?

The journey to improved student practice in mathematics begins with the first step of engaging in transparent conversations with colleagues about your current homework routines. How similar are your practices and routines? How dissimilar? How varied is the cognitive demand of tasks you chose for at-home independent practice assignments? Are students taking ownership of their learning as a result of independent practice design and the formative nature of its practice?

This tool will help your team gain clarity through transparent conversations about your current independent practice routines. What is working well? What aspects need improvement? Prior to your next collaborative team meeting, ask each team member to develop responses to its questions. Then, at the team meeting, share and compare responses and talk about the team's consistencies, your inconsistencies, and the degree to which your independent practice processes function formatively for each unit of mathematics instruction.

Agreeing on the purpose of your independent practice assignments by answering these questions *together* is a good first step for your collective teacher efficacy for this important part of your daily routines. Most likely, it will reveal quite a wide variance in your practices and routines and create meaningful conversations about unifying the student homework experience for your grade level or course.