**D. CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING**

**1. Expectation**

The student will be able to reason logically and creatively, make informed and responsible decisions and solve problems.

**2. Indicators of Success**

1. Gathers and processes information for decision making.

2. Develops and reasonably defends arguments, positions and decisions.

3. Clarifies problems and develops effective solutions.

4. Executes plans and evaluates results effectively.

**3. Critical Thinking Indicator 1**

Gathers and processes information for decision making.

**Achievement criteria:**

* Selects information relevant to purpose.
* Accurately interprets information and evidence.
* Identifies salient arguments and different points of view.
* Recognizes assumptions and perspectives.
* Evaluates the logic, validity and relevance of data.

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| **Standards of Performance** |
| **Beginning** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** |
| With assistance, identifies a limited range of information suited to purpose; interprets information accurately but simply; identifies some arguments, assumptions and perspectives; conducts minimal evaluation of material. | Identifies a good range of information suited to purpose; accurately interprets information; identifies salient arguments, assumptions, perspectives and alternative points of view; conducts well reasoned and comprehensive evaluations of material selected for use. | Identifies a comprehensive range of information suited to purpose; relates and synthesizes information from multiple sources; accurately interprets information; recognizes subtle patterns and meanings; draws insightful, logical, and creative conclusions; conducts excellent evaluation of material selected for use. |

**4.** **Critical Thinking Indicator 2**

Develops and reasonably defends arguments, positions and decisions.

**Achievement criteria:**

* Analyzes and evaluates information and alternative points of view.
* Draws well-reasoned conclusions.
* Justifies results by explaining assumptions and reasons for choices.

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| **Standards of Performance** |
| **Beginning** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** |
| With assistance, recognizes the differences and varied perspectives in information sources; draws some reasonable conclusions; provides limited explanation for arguments, positions, and decisions. | Recognizes the differences and varied perspectives in information sources; draws well reasoned conclusions; provides good explanation for arguments, positions, and decisions. | Recognizes the differences and varied perspectives in information sources; is sensitive to implicit assumptions and subtle bias; draws well reasoned, insightful conclusions; provides excellent explanations for arguments, positions, and decisions.  |

**5. Critical Thinking Indicator 3**

Clarifies problems and develops effective solutions.

**Achievement criteria:**

* Identifies and clearly describes the problem.
* Develops and evaluates suitable alternative solutions.
* Proposes an appropriate solution.

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| **Standards of Performance** |
| **Beginning** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** |
| With assistance, describes a problem; explains what can be done about it; identifies several possible solutions; proposes a solution; inadequately defends the appropriateness of the solution. | Clearly and concisely states a problem; seeks input from others; explains what should be done and why; proposes several suitable solutions; presents logical pros and cons for each; proposes an appropriate solution and offers good reasons for choice. | Clearly and concisely states a problem; seeks input from others; insightfully explains what should be done and why; proposes several appropriate and creative solutions; presents logical pros and cons for each; proposes the most appropriate solution and offers excellent reasons for choice. |

**6. Critical Thinking Indicator 4**

Executes plans and evaluates results effectively.

**Achievement criteria:**

* Determines needed resources.\*
* Identifies, organizes and schedules critical tasks.
* Follows-through, adapts and persists to problem resolution.
* Evaluates results.

*\*Resources could include decisions, permissions, people, and material.*

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| **Standards of Performance** |
| **Beginning** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** |
| With assistance, identifies most needed resources; organizes and sequences critical tasks; poorly executes some tasks; achieves inadequate results; recognizes and explains some but not all strengths and deficiencies of the intended solution. | Identifies and acquires needed resources; logically sequences critical tasks; adjusts implementation as needed; executes most tasks effectively and on schedule; explains the strengths and deficiencies of the solution; makes suggestions for future improvement and problem prevention. | Identifies and achieves all needed resources; organizes and implements critical tasks very well; makes timely and creative adjustments; provides excellent explanations of the strengths and deficiencies of the solution; makes excellent suggestions for improvement and future problem prevention. |