# Computational Thinking Strategies

## What is computational thinking?

Computational thinking is a set of concepts and skills from computer science that can be used to help solve problems and support student thinking. The five key skills or concepts related to computational thinking are pattern recognition, abstraction, decomposition, debugging, and algorithms.

**Exhibit 1. Definition of computational thinking**

| Concept or skill | Definition |
|---|---|
| **Pattern recognition** | Observing and identifying patterns, trends, and regularities in data, processes, or problems. |
| **Abstraction** | Identifying the general principles and properties that are important and relevant to the problem. |
| **Decomposition** | Breaking down data, processes, or problems into meaningful smaller, manageable parts. |
| **Debugging** | Reviewing solutions to troubleshoot errors or improve the solution. |
| **Algorithms** | Developing step-by-step instructions for solving a problem and similar problems. |

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