

## STEPS TO SOLVING LINEAR EQUATIONS

**Step 1:** Remove all parentheses using the Distributive Property, if they are present. Also perform distribution wherever it is present. (*Separate the sum or difference of rational expressions.*)

**Step 2:** Clear all Denominators by multiplying **BOTH** sides of the equation by the Least Common Denominator (LCD) or a number that is common to all the denominators, if they are present.

**Step 3:** Simplify the **LEFT** and **RIGHT** side of the equation by combining “LIKE” terms on the **LEFT** and **RIGHT** side of the equation.

**Step 4:** Get Variable terms and Constant terms on opposite sides of the equation by using the Addition Property of Equality along with the Additive Inverse Property. (*Try doing this on the smaller variable term FIRST in the equation. Remember, a negative is always SMALLER than a positive*)

**Step 5:** Isolate the variable (get it alone) by using the Multiplication Property of Equality along with the Multiplicative Inverse Property.