

Foundations for High-Quality Early Learning Programming

Early Learning Intermediate (Grades 3-5)

Developmentally Appropriate, Standards-Focused Curriculum

A holistic approach to early learning requires teachers to be knowledgeable about child development and skilled in providing experiences that meet students' needs. Social/emotional, cognitive, and physical development are interrelated domains which emphasize the development of positive dispositions to learning.

Best practices for a comprehensive approach to early learning instruction indicate appropriate and sufficient emphases in all content areas are provided. Developmentally appropriate integration of content is utilized to provide rigor based on students' prior experiences, knowledge and developmental levels.

Developmental Domains

Social/Emotional
Cognitive
Physical

Content Areas

English Language
Arts
Mathematics
Music
Science
Social Studies
Visual Art
Wellness

The Early Learning Intermediate grades (third through fifth grades) provide opportunities for students to refine their critical thinking and process skills in an environment that encourages more independent learning.

The teacher's ability to design high-quality, developmentally appropriate experiences including interdisciplinary and subject specific instruction.

Critical Considerations to Help Assure a Developmentally Appropriate, Standards-Focused Curriculum:

- Students in intermediate grades learn best when teachers use their knowledge of child development and their knowledge of students as learners to develop and strengthen relationships that foster learning.
- Students in these grades benefit when classroom instruction is intellectually challenging, linked to other disciplines and applied to real-world settings. A portion of the instructional day may include developmentally appropriate instruction focused on specific content areas.
- Intermediate students learn best when instruction is balanced between knowledge acquisition and skill development.
- Instruction engages intermediate students in a variety of learning experiences including: hands-on, problem/project based learning, collaborative groups and real life applications.
- A developmentally appropriate, standards-focused classroom environment becomes "the third teacher" and provides ample opportunities for students to engage in high quality learning experiences.

Implications

- Intermediate students benefit when teachers develop relationships that enhance the learning experience. **Ask yourself:** *Do I help students develop communications skills necessary to interact with adults and students in order to develop understanding of content standards?*
- Learning experiences are designed to integrate content and provide content area specific instruction. There is a balance of tasks that build knowledge and develop skills. **Ask yourself:** *Do I craft lessons that actively engage students as they develop an understanding of the content standards? Do I devote sufficient time for students to develop an understanding of all content standards?*
- Exposure to a meaningful, print-rich environment where vocabulary scaffolding occurs through various experiences promoting learning and an eagerness to learn. Students have access to a wide variety of informational and literary texts. **Ask yourself:** *How can I*



help close the literacy achievement gap?

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Selected Resources

Achieve the Core: Common Core Resources. (n.d.). Online: <http://www.achievethecore.org/>

Teach 21 WV Educator Resources. (2012). Online: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/teach21/> .

Related Policies

Policy 2510	Assuring the Quality Of Education: Regulations For Education Programs
Policy 2520.14	21st Century Learning Skills and Technology Tools Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools
Policy 2315	Student Success Standards
Policy 2520.1a	Next Generation Content Standards and Objectives for English Language Arts in West Virginia Schools
Policy 2520.2b	Next Generation Content Standards and Objectives for Mathematics in West Virginia Schools
Policy 2520.3	21st Century Science K-8 Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools
Policy 2520.4	The Next Generation Content Standards and Objectives for Social Studies in West Virginia
Policy 2520.10	21st Century Music Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools
Policy 2520.12	21st Century Visual Arts Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools
Policy 2520.55	21st Century Wellness PreK-4 Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools
Policy 2520.5	Next Generation Health Education 5-12 Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools
Policy 2520.6	21st Century Physical Education 5-12 Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools

