

# **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

## **Curriculum**

**Grade Level Expectations** are the nationally recognized content and performance standards that children are expected to meet in Grades 3 through 8. These are the standards to which the children will be held accountable in the state assessments beginning 2005-2006.

Curriculum documents include:

- **Standards**
- **Benchmarks**
- **Outlines**
- **Guides**

A **Standard** identifies a broad knowledge base. A **Standard** addresses content knowledge that a student needs to demonstrate. There are two types of standards - **content** and **performance**. **Content Standards** tell us the specific content knowledge that students must know. **Performance Standards** tell us what students should be able to do with that knowledge.

A **Benchmark** is a specific task, activity, strategy, or skill that a student can demonstrate within a standard.

A **Curriculum Outline** is basically a course syllabus as to the standard and performance benchmarks that need to be accomplished in order for a student to be considered proficient. The standard assessment tools that will be utilized, the standard resource materials that will be provided, and the specific national and district standards that will be addressed by the benchmarks are listed. This document is an instructional guideline that students and their parents can reference in understanding what the student expectations are for a particular course of study.

A **Curriculum Guide** assist teachers in designing lesson units and specific lesson plans. It has eight major components -

- the standards to be addressed,
- the performance benchmarks to be reflected,
- the knowledge and skills and learning strategies that a student needs to master,
- the essential questions students should be able to answer regarding that standard,
- the assessment tools and rubric criteria to be implemented,
- the learning tasks and activities to be utilized within a classroom,
- the instructional resource materials and equipment to be used by the student in attaining that standard, and
- special notations that may include helpful websites or other activities that can facilitate student learning.