

FUNDAMENTAL STEPS: STANDARDS

The nationwide movement for high standards has not only determined what students should learn, but also has mandated that students demonstrate what they know. FUNDAMENTAL STEPS addresses numerous Language Arts Standards. As of late 2000, federally-funded efforts to develop a singular compendium of language arts standards were incomplete. For the purposes of Writing Standards, Interact consulted a compendium published by ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development), and McREL (Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning). FUNDAMENTAL STEPS meets the following standards set forth within *Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K-12 Education*. This document gathers standards set by such organizations as NCTE (National Council for Teachers of English) and NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress). Level II (Grades 3-5) Writing Standards met by FUNDAMENTAL STEPS include:

1. **Uses general skills and strategies of the writing process**
 - **Prewriting:** Uses prewriting strategies to plan written work
 - **Drafting and Revising:** Uses strategies to draft and revise written work
 - **Editing and Publishing:** Uses strategies to edit and publish written work
 - Evaluates own and others' writing
 - Uses strategies to write for different audiences
 - Uses strategies to write for a variety of purposes
 - Writes expository compositions
 - Writes narrative accounts

2. **Uses the stylistic and rhetorical aspects of writing**
 - Uses descriptive language that clarifies and enhances ideas
 - Uses paragraph form in writing
 - Uses a variety of sentence structures in writing

3. **Uses grammatical and mechanical conventions**
 - Uses pronouns in written compositions
 - Uses nouns in written compositions
 - Uses verbs in written compositions
 - Uses adjectives in written compositions
 - Uses adverbs in written compositions
 - Uses coordinating conjunctions (transitions) in written compositions
 - Uses conventions of spelling in written compositions
 - Uses conventions of capitalization in written compositions
 - Uses conventions of punctuation in written compositions
 - Uses standard format in written compositions

4. Gathers and uses information for research purposes

- Uses a variety of strategies to plan research
- Uses encyclopedias to gather information for research topics
- Uses electronic media to gather information for research topics
- Uses strategies to gather and record information for research topics
- Uses strategies to compile information into written reports or summaries
- Cites information sources

5. Uses listening and speaking skills and strategies for a variety of purposes

- Contributes to group discussions
- Asks questions in class
- Responds to questions and comments
- Listens to classmates and adults
- Uses strategies to convey a clear main point when speaking
- Makes basic oral presentations to class
- Organizes ideas for oral presentation