**READING**

The goal of all reading instruction is to help students become competent consumers of a wide variety of texts in diverse forms so that they can achieve independence, find meaning, and use literacy for lifelong learning, empowerment, and enjoyment.

A text is anything that can be read, heard or viewed. Texts may include words, images, objects, sounds, and symbols that convey messages from developers to consumers. They broadly encompass multiple purposes, audience appeal, and a wide variety of human experiences that create meaning for the reader. When choosing texts, teachers must consider the qualities of complexity and the diversity of texts each student should experience.

The reading standards are designed progressively, using specificity and scaffolding to engage all readers in pursuing skills and experiences that contribute to personal, communal, and global needs and interests. This design promotes essential reading skills, allowing students to understand and enjoy a wide range of texts from a variety of perspectives. Teachers must employ a balance of research-based instructional approaches and strategies designed to provide multiple opportunities for transfer of learning.