

curriculum and teacher training in the area must be continually evaluated and developed.

Finally, basic skills have very definite implications for both college preparatory work and vocational education. Typically, a college preparatory curriculum is viewed as advanced and enrichment work. However, recent developments in Florida such as the Gordon Rule, the College Level Academic Skills Test, recent proposed legislation, and so on, suggest that this is not always the case. In fact, these efforts are directly aimed at basic skills development and minimum level achievement. Mastery of basic skills has been tacitly assumed for college bound students in the past and evidence now suggests the assumption is faulty. Clearly, college bound students must have proficiency in this area.

Basic skills are critical for vocational students as well. Many business leaders suggest that the role of the public school is to teach students to "read, write, and compute" and the business or trade will teach the skills required to succeed in that business or industry. This suggests that students exiting public schools for the world of work must be prepared in basic skills at that point, for little formal study is likely to take place afterward.

This all suggests that the development of basic skills is critical at all levels, from the most to the least talented students, and through the entire spectrum of curriculum rigor.

General Education

The general education component is the second of the interrelated parts. It exists as a high priority goal and finds its place in the curriculum not only to augment basic skills but also to provide a