

vehicle for basic skills development. The general education curriculum includes literature, art, music, history, geography, language, and so on, in the form of their content, modes of study and attitudes that allow a person exposed to the disciplines to be considered reasonably "educated." Florida's schools should increase general education requirements to insure that as many of their graduates as possible have been exposed to as much of the content of these disciplines as possible. Only then will the general educational level of our population rise and continue to rise. The general education component also provides an avenue of development of thinking skills.

The general education component--as with basic skills--is also important to the college preparatory program. Postsecondary education assumes a strong general education foundation on which it builds its own increased breadth and depth. An integration of basic skills mastery together with thorough general education will result in preparation for advanced work limited only by the individual's ability and initiative.

General education for students entering the world of work directly from the public school experience is also essential, although perhaps not in exactly the same way as for college bound students. General education can be the delivery system for initially considering and hopefully raising the quality of life. Further, general education is the primary mechanism available to vocational students for the development of thinking and decision-making skills. While students involved in advanced study may have additional opportunities, the formal training for vocational students may end with public school training, and the ability to think and choose wisely is no less important for trades people than it is for those in any other area. With this in mind, let us turn now to a