**Unit Goals**

*Word Power* (a unit for gifted students in 4th-6th grades) addresses certain content and skill objectives expected of students in 5th-8th grades.

**5th Grade**

**Competency Goal 1:** The learner will apply enabling strategies and skills to read and write.

1.01 Expand and refine vocabulary through knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, roots, derivatives, context clues, and etymologies (word origins) to assist comprehension.

1.02 Select key vocabulary critical to the text and apply appropriate meanings as necessary for comprehension.

1.03 Gain reading and writing vocabulary through:
   - word study,
   - word reference materials,
   - writing as a tool, and
   - discussions.

1.04 Use word reference materials (e.g., glossary, dictionary, thesaurus, online reference tools) to identify and comprehend unknown words.

1.05 Read independently from self-selected materials (consistent with the student’s independent reading level) on a daily basis to:
   - increase fluency,
   - build background knowledge, and
   - expand and refine vocabulary.

**Competency Goal 2:** The learner will apply strategies and skills to comprehend text.

2.01 Use metacognitive strategies independently and flexibly to monitor comprehension and extend vocabulary (e.g., skim, scan, and reread the text; consult other sources; ask for help; summarize; paraphrase; and question).

**6th Grade**

**Competency Goal 2:** The learner will explore and analyze information from a variety of sources.
2.01 Explore informational materials by:
- monitoring comprehension for understanding of what is read, heard, and viewed,
- restating and summarizing information, and
- drawing inferences and conclusions.

7th Grade

Competency Goal 5: The learner will respond to various literary genres using interpretive and evaluative processes.

5.01 Increase fluency, comprehension, and insight through a meaningful and comprehensive literacy program by:
- using effective reading strategies to match type of text, and
- reading self-selected literature and other materials of individual interest.

Competency Goal 6: The learner will apply conventions of grammar and language usage.

6.01 Model an understanding of conventional written and spoken expression by:
- determining the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary words using context clues, a dictionary, a glossary, a thesaurus, or structural analysis (roots, prefixes, and suffixes) of words; and
- extending vocabulary knowledge by learning and using new words.

8th Grade

Competency Goal 1: The learner will use language to express individual perspectives through analysis of personal, social, cultural, and historical issues.

1.02 Analyze expressive materials that are read, heard, or viewed by:
- monitoring comprehension for understanding of what is read, heard, or viewed,
- drawing inferences,
- generating a learning log or journal, and
- maintaining an annotated list of works that are read or viewed, including personal reactions.