



## **KENTUCKY CORE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND CORE LIFE**

### **Introduction:**

Expectations for today’s schools have increased dramatically. Teachers are expected to teach students the basic skills and develop higher level thinking and problem-solving skills that will address the ever changing, complex world in which we live; but they are also expected to foster “personal self-sufficiency” and “responsible group membership” (KY. Academic Expectations 3 & 4). Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS 156:160 & KRS 158:6451.) and Kentucky Administrative Regulations (704 KAR 3:303 and 704 KAR 3:305) provide the legal base for the Kentucky Learning Goals and Academic Expectations.

Learning Goal 1 (Basic Communication and Mathematics Skills), Goal 2 (Application of Core Concepts), Goal 5 (Think and Solve Problems) and Goal 6 (Connect and Integrate Knowledge) provide students with basic academic skills and knowledge, as well as strategies for lifelong learning. Although Goal 3 (Developing Self-Sufficiency) and Goal 4 (Responsible Group Membership) are not assessed on a statewide level, the Kentucky Board of Education “expects all educators, school boards and councils, parents and students to give continued emphasis to the development of responsible group membership and personal self-sufficiency because of the importance of these skills and attributes in the workplace and the larger community.” The Health and Physical Education Program provides a connection to Kentucky’s Learning Goal 3 (self-sufficient individuals) and Learning Goal 4 (responsible group member. These connections provide a comprehensive link between essential content, skills, and abilities important to learning.

Core Life materials will help students become self-sufficient and responsible members of their families, schools, and community because they address critical character traits essential for personal and group interactions: respect, responsibility, rules, goals, volunteering, empathy, gratitude, tolerance, healthy living, moderation, honesty, wisdom, optimism, perseverance, and courtesy. Incorporating instruction and practice of these materials into the classroom will enrich the learning environment and will serve to meet some of the requirements of Kentucky Core Standards found in Goals 3 and 4 and in Practical Living- Health Education-Physical Education. Additionally, some of the writing exercises suggested in the Core Life Program addresses Kentucky Writing Standard Number 10.

**Goal 3: Students shall develop their abilities to become self-sufficient individuals.**

**Academic Expectations:**

3.1 Students demonstrate positive growth in self-concept through appropriate tasks or projects. \*

- Volunteering
- Empathy
- Gratitude
- Perseverance
- Responsibility
- Courtesy

3.2 Students demonstrate the ability to maintain a healthy lifestyle. \*

- Healthy Living
- Moderation

3.3 Students demonstrate the ability to be adaptable and flexible through appropriate tasks or projects.

- Moderation
- Wisdom
- Tolerance

3.4 Students demonstrate the ability to be resourceful and creative.

- Wisdom
- Optimism

3.5 Students demonstrate self-control and self-discipline.\*

- Rules
- Goals
- Responsibility
- Moderation

3.6 Students demonstrate the ability to make decisions based on ethical values.

- Honesty
- Respect
- Rules
- Tolerance

3.7 Students demonstrate the ability to learn on one's own. \*

- Responsibility
- Wisdom
- Optimism
- Goals
- Perseverance

*\*Denotes Connection to Practical Living-Health Education-Physical Education Common Core Standards*

**Goal 4: Students shall develop their abilities to become responsible members of a family, work group, or community, including demonstrating effectiveness in community service.**

**Academic Expectations:**

4.1 Students effectively use interpersonal skills.\*

- Volunteering
- Rules
- Responsibility
- Respect
- Empathy

4.2 Students use productive team membership skills. \*

- Volunteering
- Rules
- Responsibility
- Respect

4.3 Students individually demonstrate consistent, responsive, and caring behavior. \*

- Empathy
- Respect
- Gratitude
- Tolerance
- Courtesy

4.4 Students demonstrate the ability to accept the rights and responsibilities for self and others. \*

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Rules
- Empathy
- Tolerance
- Gratitude
- Courtesy

4.5 Students demonstrate an understanding of, appreciation for, and sensitivity to a multi-cultural and world view.

- Respect
- Rules
- Tolerance
- Empathy
- Courtesy

4.6 Students demonstrate an open mind to alternative perspectives.

- Wisdom
- Tolerance
- Optimism
- Respect
- Empathy

*\*Denotes Connection to Practical Living-Health Education-Physical Education Common Core Standards*

## **Kentucky Academic Core Text Exemplars and Core Life Reading Lists**

The Core Life booklist has an alphabetized, grade-leveled list of books representing each of the character traits. The following books, however, are used as exemplar texts in the Kentucky Academic Standards Core and they have also been identified as books representing specific Core Life character traits. Please refer to the Core Life Booklist for additional books.

- Aliko. *A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver* (Optimism)
- MacLachlan, Patricia. *Sarah, Plain and Tall* (Respect)
- Stevens, Janet. *Tops and Bottoms* (Responsibility)
- Smith, David. *If the World Were a Village: A Look about the World's People* (Gratitude)
- Coles, Robert. *The Story of Ruby Bridges* (Tolerance)
- Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *The Secret Garden* (Optimism)
- Farley, Walter. *The Black Stallion* (Empathy)
- Saint-Exupery, Antoine de. *The Little Prince* (Optimism)
- Hamilton, Virginia. *M. C. Higgins, the Great* (Goals)