Glossary of Terms

Academic Vocabulary
Words that refer to language in literacy and books, tests and formal writing

Assessment
An informal or formal process of collecting evidence of student progress toward a learning goal or objective, this can be written or oral.

Backward Design
A process for planning that begins with the end in mind and designs lessons toward that end.

Content-Specific Vocabulary
Words associated with an academic discipline such as English, Math, Science or History.

Curriculum
A framework of planned learning based on content and performance standards that the school is responsible for.

Diagnostic Assessment
A brief assessment used to identify or predict students who may be at risk for academic difficulties.

Essential Understandings
Knowledge that is central to a discipline and transferrable to new situations.

Formative Assessment
Assessment that measures the mastery of students as they learn about a topic. This type of assessment is used to inform teachers where to direct future lessons.

Guiding Questions
Questions help provide focus and coherence for units of study.

Key Concepts
The crucial information of a topic or subject.

Key Skills
Processes that allow a student to use the crucial information of a topic or subject.

Performance Assessment
It requires students to demonstrate that they have mastered specific skills and competencies by performing or producing something.

Definitions derived from Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Texas Education Agency and Houston Independent School District documents.
Readiness Standard
Texas Essential Knowledge and Skill that is essential for success in current grade level or course. It addresses broad and deep ideas that are important for preparedness for the next grade or course.

Remediation
It is the process of correcting a deficiency in order to improve or correct one’s skills.

Scaffolding
It is support given by the teacher during the learning process to assist the student in achieving learning goals.

Supporting Standard
These standards may address more narrowly defined ideas and may be emphasized or reinforced in the current grade or course. They may play a role in the next grade or course but not a central role.

Summative Assessment
Assessment that refers to the assessment of the learning and summarizes the development of learners at a particular time.

WHERETO
An acronym for Where is it going?; Hook the students; Explore and equip; Rethink and revise; Exhibit and evaluate; Tailor to student needs, interests, and styles; Organize for maximum engagement and effectiveness.