

# Research-Based Support for Testing Fundamentals

- **General reading competence is by far the most important single factor for success on a high stakes test.**
- **Best practices for teaching reading specifically for authentic meaning-making experiences include:**
  - The use of high quality literature
  - The use of texts across multiple genres
  - Explicit instruction in comprehension and figuring out words
  - Balancing direct instruction with guided instruction and independent reading
- **Key components to effectively prepare students for state tests:**
  - Analyze the underlying reading skills students need to answer test questions
  - Create ongoing curricula to provide a foundation for good test-taking performances
  - Analyze the test format in order to teach students how they will need to represent their knowledge
- **“Test-wise” students develop test-taking strategies that enable them to improve their scores.**

