The Tennessee Academic Standards should be integrated throughout the unit design. Teachers should select concepts based on knowledge requirements contained in the grade level content standards. Then, teachers should select specific ELA standards once texts and tasks are chosen to support students’ reading comprehension and completion of daily and end of unit tasks.

Students should always be at the heart of instructional decision making. Teachers should consider what standards, instructional strategies, and supports are needed to ensure that all students meet grade-level expectations.

Designing units is not a completely linear process. Teachers should continually think about the integration of standards and student needs as they plan units.