**Knox County English Department is committed to high levels of teaching and learning where:**

**Students:**

* read complex texts independently and illustrate critical thinking through annotations, evidence-based classroom discussions, and evidence-based writing;
* write consistently and coherently using all modes of writing for a variety of purposes and audiences;
* demonstrate engagement and investment in reading through intentional research-based strategies; and
* build knowledge of the world through reading and comparing diverse literary and informational texts.

**Teachers:**

* develop and implement a progression of text-dependent questions that lead to deep discussion and critical analysis of text;
* facilitate opportunities for students to select relevant texts that align with the module's enduring understanding and essential questions;
* regularly and purposefully engage in collaborative vertical and grade level planning; and
* consistently evaluate student work to assess progression towards mastery of the standards.

**School and District Leaders:**

* develop and provide modules and examples of high-quality materials;
* provide a combination of clear expectations and teacher autonomy within a framework;
* designate time and resources for teachers to productively plan for student needs; and
* incorporate time for feeder patterns to meet regularly for vertical alignment of standards and expectations.