

## NAF Power Standards

NAF's overarching approach is to use Career Themes as an organizing system for high academic achievement. NAF agrees with this approach to defining power standards ([www.makingstandardswork.com](http://www.makingstandardswork.com)):

Standards have the potential to significantly sharpen and focus curriculum, instruction, and assessment. However, educators and administrators are acutely aware of the fact that most state standards are too voluminous to be effectively taught within the number of instructional days each year. In striving to "cover" everything, educators admit to teaching many of the standards only superficially. Often, all standards are considered equal when, in fact, certain standards are more important than others in terms of overall student success. There is uncertainty and inconsistency regarding which standards educators need to emphasize over others. As a result, the use of standards to focus instruction and thus improve student learning is diminished.

Power Standards are *prioritized* standards that are derived from a systematic and balanced approach to distinguishing the standards that are absolutely essential for student success from those that are "nice to know." Power Standards are a subset of the complete list of standards for each grade and for each subject.

**National standards used in the NAF curriculum should be those that promote rigor, relevance, integration and preparation of post-secondary education. NAF power standards are those that provide the conceptual understanding of the theme as a whole.**