

## Understanding “Pacing Guides”

In 2014 the Indiana Department of Education released the new College and Career Readiness Standards for grades K-12 in Indiana schools. “The college and career ready Indiana Academic Standards are designed to help educators, parents, students, and community members understand what students need to know and be able to do at each grade level, and within each content strand, in order to exit high school college and career ready ([www.doe.in.gov](http://www.doe.in.gov)).”

In effort to ensure all students at SEFE learn the skills necessary to be prepared and successful at the subsequent grade level, our staff has mapped out a timeline for mastering all grade level standards over the course of a school year. Grade level, content-specific “pacing guides” will display grade level standards that will be mastered over the course of the year. These pacing guides are organized into “units” in order to establish periodic benchmarks for mastery. An example of a “unit” included on a grade level pacing guide is as follows:

UNIT 1: Weeks 1-3 (14 days)	
Standard	Concepts
RL 2.1	Textual evidence/inferences
RN 2.1	Cite textual evidence/inferences
RV 2.1	Context Clues
RV 2.4	Greek and Latin affixes & roots

The Indiana Academic Standard reference code is listed on the left and the skill(s) associated with the standard is described in the “Concepts” category. All students will be assessed for mastery of the listed concepts at the end of the 3-week unit. All grade levels have implemented 3 units per nine weeks for Reading, Language Arts, and Math.

## Understanding “Unit Tests”

SEFE has implemented unit tests at each grade level with the following rationale:

- Establish a periodic benchmark for mastery of grade level standards
- Allow staff to identify students that have yet to master required skills, thus needing reteaching/remediation (RTI, Tier 3). The results will help teachers see who “didn’t get it” and who need extra help moving forward.
- Help target instruction to the specific needs of *every* student
- Create consistency in grading practices at each grade level, as well as the entire building
- *Reduce the amount of testing*. Only three tests will be given per nine weeks at each grade level.