November 4, 2011

Statement Regarding the Use of Leveled Text

The North Carolina State Board of Education adopted the English/Language Arts (ELA) Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in June 2010. “The Standards set grade-specific standards but do not define the intervention methods or materials necessary to support students who are well below or well above grade-level expectations. No set of grade-specific standards can fully reflect the great variety in abilities, needs, learning rates, and achievement levels of students in any given classroom. However, the Standards do provide clear signposts along the way to the goal of college and career readiness for all students” (CCSS, pg. 6).

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) supports engaging students with both grade-level complex texts and leveled texts in order to gain fluency, joy of reading, build knowledge about the world, and accelerate toward higher levels of complexity. We advocate that both leveled texts and texts of grade-level complexity are necessary to accelerate students’ reading performance and to develop proficiency and independence.

For additional information regarding the CCSS, please visit the official website: http://www.corestandards.org

Or the NCDPI ELA wiki: http://elacss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/ELA+Home