**Guiding Principles of the Two-Legged Approach**

* Students and their healthy development are as important, if not more important, than any set of academic knowledge or skills.
* Teachers do not need to await instructions from districts or commercial textbook developers to introduce learning experiences appropriate to students’ developmental-stage needs.
* A two-legged approach to designing curriculum can free teachers to weave learning experiences known to meet the developmental needs of their students into existing academic curricula.
* Learning experiences that effectively nourish students’ developmental needs actually deepen their engagement in academic learning.
* Adding developmental strands to existing academic curricula can increase students’ engagement and performance, enabling teachers and students to increase overall student achievement despite presumptions to the contrary.