**Academic Development**

The units in Academic Development are designed to assist students K-12 in developing the academic skills necessary to be successful in the classroom and in life. The three major areas covered in Academic Development are:

**Applying skills needed for educational achievement.**

**Major Points:** The emphasis in this area is developing “academic self-efficacy”. This includes instilling the belief that every individual can set and attain academic goals. Self-management, study and test taking skills are systematically and intentionally taught to every K-12 student. Sources of help are available for students; they are taught to recognize the need for academic assistance and where and how to get help.

**Applying the skills of transitioning between educational levels.**

**Major Points:** The learning within this area includes helping K-12 students acquire the information necessary to make smooth transitions from grade to grade and setting to setting (e.g. elementary school to middle school; school to post-secondary options). Understanding expectations of teachers and requirements of subject areas are examples of information that will help students understand the changes required by transitions.

**Developing and monitoring personal educational plans.**

**Major Points:** The Missouri School Improvement Program requires all students to have individual educational and career plans that are initiated no later than 8th grade. This area places emphasis on the knowledge, understanding and skills K-12 students need in order to develop a meaningful educational plan. Specific tasks include: learning to set goals; developing a plan to reach goals; knowing where to go for information/assistance; reviewing and modifying plans.
UNIT DESCRIPTION: The Successful Student

Students will participate in group discussions involving self-management skills, study skills, learning styles, goal-setting, and test-taking strategies. 6th Grade lessons include strategies that help students explore the characteristics and skills of successful learners and strategies designed to help students identify their learning styles. 7th Grade lesson is designed to help students become familiar with the purposes Self-Management Skills, Study Skills and Test-taking Skills. 8th Grade: As a summative activity, students will evaluate their current management, study, and test-taking skills using the survey and performance activity, Getting Your Grades Together.

NOTE: The counselor/instructor has some latitude with this unit. Some may wish to use Getting Your Grades Together for pre- and post-assessment. Others may wish to introduce this activity at the beginning of 6th grade and again at the conclusion of 8th grade. Still others may use this survey throughout the middle school process. The short-answer and essay questions are designed for the post-test phase at the end of 8th grade, but may be omitted when using the survey for earlier grades.

The counselor/instructor may want to use the survey information to work with at-risk students to discuss student perceptions versus student performance.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

1. What does a successful student look like?  
2. What choices do you make that impact your success as a student?  
3. Why don’t we all learn the same way on the same day?

**ESSENTIAL MEASURABLE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

| 1. The student will describe five qualities and/or characteristics of a successful student. |

**CCSS LEARNING GOALS (Anchor Standards/Clusters)**

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<td>RI.6.1</td>
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**CROSSWALK TO STANDARDS**

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<td>AD.4.A.06: Develop and practice</td>
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2. The student will write a paragraph describing his/her individual learning style and cite three ways his/her academic achievement can improve using learning style strategies.

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<td>AD.4.B.06:</td>
<td>Develop and practice a self-management system to promote academic success.</td>
<td>AD.4.A.07:</td>
<td>Demonstrate and refine study skills and test-taking strategies utilizing available academic resources.</td>
<td>AD.4.B.07:</td>
<td>Demonstrate and refine a self-management system to promote academic success.</td>
<td>AD.4.A.08:</td>
<td>Consistently apply a system of study skills and test-taking strategies to promote academic success.</td>
<td>AD.4.B.08:</td>
<td>Consistently apply a self-management system to promote academic success.</td>
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acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills contributing to effective learning in school and across the lifespan.

DOK – 4
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3. The student will identify two or more skills in the categories of study skills, test-taking skills, and self-management skills.

4. The student will develop two academic success goals and three action steps that can be utilized to accomplish each goal.

**ASSESSMENT DESCRIPTIONS***:

Getting Your Grades Together survey and performance activity. Summative Assessment will take place during the 8th grade lesson. Learners will assess their own study skills via the Getting Your Grades Together survey. After assessing their skills, students will write an essay describing their plans for applying what they have learned in middle school to high school work. Essays will include the following elements: Discussion of strengths and limitations in the areas of: Self-Management Skills; Study Skills, and Test-taking skills and the steps to personal success in each skill area. This will be a formal essay and follow the conventions of standard English. To add interest, essay may be written as a letter to self.

**Obj. #** | **INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES (research-based): (Teacher Methods)**
--- | ---
_x_ Direct  
_x_ Indirect  
_x_ Experiential  
_x_ Independent study  
_x_ Interactive Instruction

1  See Lessons:  
   Grade 6:  
   Lesson 1 Picturing the Successful Student
2  Lesson 2 What’s Your Style?  
3  Grade 7:  
   Lesson 3 Let’s Review for Better Achievement

AD.A  DOK – 3
AD.AB  DOK – 4
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AD.ABCD  DOK – 3
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<th>Obj. #</th>
<th>INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: (What Students Do)</th>
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<td>See Lessons:</td>
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<td>Grade 6:</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Lesson 1 Picturing the Successful Student</td>
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<td>Lesson 2 What’s Your Style?</td>
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<td>Grade 7:</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Lesson 3 Let’s Review for Better Achievement</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Grade 8:</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Lesson 4 Just Checking</td>
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### Direct:
- **x** Structured Overview (Ls. 4)
- **x** Lecture
- **x** Explicit Teaching (Ls. 4)
- **x** Drill & Practice (Ls. 2-4)
- **x** Compare & Contrast (Ls. 2-4)
- **x** Didactic Questions
- **x** Demonstrations
- **x** Guided & Shared reading, listening, viewing, thinking (Ls. 1-2-3-4)

### Indirect:
- **x** Problem Solving (Ls. 3)
- **x** Case Studies (Ls. 3)
- **x** Reading for Meaning Inquiry
- **x** Reflective Discussion (Ls. 1-2-3-4)
- **x** Writing to Inform
- **x** Concept Formation (Ls. 3)
- **x** Concept Attainment
- **x** Cloze Procedure

### Experiential:
- Field Trips
- Narratives
- Conducting Experiments
- Simulations
- Games
- Storytelling
- Focused Imaging
- Field Observations
- Role-playing
- Model Building
- Surveys (Ls. 2-4)

### Independent Study:
- **x** Essays (Ls. 2)
- **x** Computer Assisted Instruction
- **x** Learning Logs
- **x** Reports
- **x** Learning Activity Packages
- **x** Correspondence Lessons
- **x** Learning Contracts (Ls. 4)
- **x** Homework
- **x** Research Projects
- **x** Assigned Questions
- **x** Learning Centers

### Interactive Instruction:
- **x** Debates
- **x** Role Playing
- **x** Panels
- **x** Brainstorming (Ls. 1-3-4)
- **x** Peer Partner Learning
- **x** Discussion (Ls. 1)
- **x** Laboratory Groups
- **x** Think, Pair, Share (Ls. 1-4)
- **x** Cooperative Learning (Ls. 1)
- **x** Jigsaw
- **x** Problem Solving (Ls. 3)
- **x** Structured Controversy
- **x** Tutorial Groups
- **x** Interviewing
- **x** Conferencing

### UNIT RESOURCES: