** Essential Questions and Learning Targets**

 **We Believe**

 **Laurens County School District**

* **Essential Questions foster the kinds of inquiries, discussions, and reflections that help learners find meaning in their learning and achieve deeper thought and better quality in their work.**
* **Essential Questions**

**-are open ended, easy to understand, and are posted in the classroom for a visual reference for students and the teacher.**

**-are arguable, with multiple plausible answers.**

**-raise further questions**

**-spark discussion and debate.**

**-demand evidence and reasoning because varying answers exist.**

**-point to big ideas and pressing issues.**

**-fruitfully recur throughout the unit or year.**

**-answers proposed are tentative and may change in light of new experiences and deepening of understanding (McTighe & Wiggins, 2013).**

* **When using Essential Questions as a framing approach, the teacher is planning for inquiry and argument as a priority outcome.**
* **Essential Questions should be designed to make it more likely that the work and talk get beyond simply** **covering the standards.**
* **Learning Targets reflect level of expectations in the standard(s).**
* **Learning Targets clearly describe for the students exactly what they are going to learn by the end of today’s lesson.**
* **Learning Targets empower student to take ownership of their own learning.**
* **Learning Targets**

**-are designed with developmentally appropriate language that the student can understand.**

**-is stated from the point of view of a student who has yet to master the content, skill, or process that makes up the target.**

**-reflects what the teacher will ask students to do, make, say, or write that will deepen their understanding**

* **A high-quality learning target contains student “look-fors”-criteria that students can use to judge how close they have come to the target in language that describes mastery of the target, rather than in grading or scoring language.**
* **Learning Targets are posted and referred to during the lesson.**