

collaborative project involved the University of Texas' Learning Technology Center in the College of Education and four middle schools in two Austin area school districts — Austin ISD and Eanes ISD.

“The SCANS report identifies the ability to work with a variety of technologies as one of five critical competencies needed by 21st century employees.”

In a paper written for the National Council for the Social Studies, Jim Beeler, a history teacher for Eanes ISD, noted that MacCSILE is a natural outgrowth of a report issued in 1991 by the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS), entitled “A SCANS Report for America 2000”. The Labor Secretary charged the commission to determine attributes individuals need for successful employment. To fulfill this, SCANS identified five competencies and a three-part skills foundations. The competencies, reflecting a broad, non-content base of attributes that any employee should possess, are:

- ⇒ **RESOURCES** — identifies, organizes, plans and allocates resources
- ⇒ **INTERPERSONAL** — works with others
- ⇒ **INFORMATION** — acquires and uses information
- ⇒ **SYSTEMS** — understands complex inter-relationships
- ⇒ **TECHNOLOGY** — works with a variety of technologies

The skills foundations comprise a base for communication, reasoning, and social interaction. They are:

- ⇒ **BASICS** — reading, writing, math, listening, and speaking
- ⇒ **THINKING** — decision



Jim Beeler answers questions about the novel writing project with his history students . . .