Instruction that keeps students at the center often begins by asking what knowledge is available about the needs, abilities, and interests of student learners, and applying this knowledge to instructional decisions made about goals and objectives, curriculum, the CCSS, instructional practices, pedagogical content knowledge, and assessment. Figure 5.3 contains the types of questions you might ask yourself as you begin to consider the knowledge you have about students and how this can shape your instructional decisions in response to the CCSS. Answering the questions in Figure 5.3 also involves careful consideration of your teaching context in relation to what you know about your students by asking about the community, family and home cultures, out-of-school experiences, and school and district culture that influence your students’ schooling experiences and your instructional decision making.

**FIGURE 5.3:** Questions for planning with students at the center.