

English Language
Development/Proficiency
Standards for English Language
Learners, 2014

Overview

Proposed English Language Development (ELD) Standards for Florida Standards

The World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) consortium created its English language proficiency (ELP) standards (2004, 2007, 2012) to address the need for English language learners to become fully proficient in both social and academic English. The development of these standards included educators in the field of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), various ESOL stakeholders, researchers, university ESOL professors and the Center for Applied Linguistics, which served as a partner. A public review of these standards was conducted in February and March, 2014, with feedback solicited from ESOL advisory groups, educators and stakeholders statewide. WIDA's ELD Standards for PreKindergarten through Grade 12 encompass:

- Social and Instructional language
- the language of Language Arts
- the language of Mathematics
- the language of Science
- the language of Social Studies

Please refer to the following table for clarification:

The WIDA English Language Development Standards

Standard Number	Standard	Abbreviation
EL.K12.SI.1	English language learners communicate for social and instructional purposes within the school setting	Social and Instructional Language
EL.K12.LA.1	English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of Language Arts	The Language of Language Arts
EL.K12.MA.1	English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of Mathematics	The Language of Mathematics
EL.K12.SC.1	English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of Science	The Language of Science
EL.K12.SS.1	English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the	The Language of Social Studies

The five WIDA ELD Standards are organized into:

- Four language domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing;
- Six language proficiency levels: 1-Entering, 2-Beginning, 3-Developing, 4-Expanding, 5-Bridging, and 6-Reaching;
- Five grade-level clusters: PreK–K, 1–2, 3–5, 6–8, and 9–12.

The WIDA ELD Standards document consists of thousands of model performance indicators (MPIs). An MPI is a single cell within the standards' matrices that describes a specific level of language proficiency for a language domain. Each MPI consists of a language function, or a verb indicating how ELLs can process or use language, an example topic, which is flexible but helps educators embed language instruction within an academic context, and a form of support (sensory, graphic, or interactive) through level 4 to help ELLs access meaning. While the WIDA ELD Standards engage students in higher order thinking skills at all levels of language proficiency, the linguistic performance definitions for each level vary. That is, WIDA emphasizes that students will process or produce language with higher degrees of linguistic complexity, greater specificity of vocabulary usage, and increasing language control as they progress along the continuum of language development and mature in age, as required by increasing complex demands placed on academic language by the nature of the content standards.

WIDA is defined by its persistent inclusion of educators in all stages of developing its products and services, including the standards, and its collaboration with numerous experts and leaders in the field. Alignment services, professional development, and research importantly complement WIDA's ELD standards and assessments. Based on the WIDA ELD Standards, WIDA has produced a large-scale assessment, ACCESS for ELLs®, a screener test, the W-APT™, and the WIDA MODEL™, which can be used as a placement or benchmark assessment. Current WIDA-affiliated grant projects are developing Spanish language standards and assessments and have developed the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ test for students with severe cognitive disabilities.