WIDA Standards and CAN DO Descriptors

Alicia Campellone
Foxborough Public Schools – Grade 6 Teacher
M.Ed. in TESL in May 2013

WIDA Standards

English Language Development Standards, K-12 – 2007

Purpose:

- outline the progression of English language development

- exemplify how to teach academic language within the context of content area instruction

- guide curriculum development, instruction, and assessment

Five Standards

- **Standard 1**: **Social and Instructional** Language

- **Standard 2**: The language of **Language Arts**

- **Standard 3**: The language of **Mathematics**

- **Standard 4**: The language of **Science**

- **Standard 5**: The language of **Social Studies**

Example Topics and Genres: Content Related to WIDA's English Language Proficiency Standards

These examples, representative of state academic content standards, provide context for the English language development described in the strands of Model Performance Indicators.

Standard 1: Social and Instructional language	Standard 2: The language of Language Arts	Standard 3: The language of Mathematics	Standard 4: The language of Science	Standard 5: The language of Social Studies
Example Topics • Assignments • Classroom supplies/ Resources • Following directions • Health & safety • Information gathering • Leisure activities • Opinions • Personal experiences • Personal information • Rules & procedures	**Example Genres** • Biographies & autobiographies • Fables • Fairy tales • Fantasies • Folklore • Informational texts • Legends • Mysteries • Myths • Narratives • Prose • Science fiction • Tall tales **Example Topics** • Affixes & root words • Comprehension strategies • Conventions & mechanics • Editing & revising • Explicit & inferential information • Fact or opinion • Fluency strategies • Hyperbole • Main ideas/Details • Organization of texts • Phonemes/Phonology • Points of view • Story elements & types of genres • Story grammar • Text structure & organization	**Example Topics** • Angles • Area • Attributes of two- and three-dimensional shapes • Basic operations (multiplication & division) • Cost/Money • Data analysis • Decimals • Descriptive statistics • Fractions • Large whole numbers • Metric system • Patterns & relationships • Percent • Perimeter • Place value • Polygons • Scale • Sets • Strategies for problem solving	**Example Topics** • Body systems • Cells & organisms • Earth history/Materials • Ecology & conservation • Ecosystems • Electricity • Energy sources • Foods & nutrition • Forces of nature • Fossils • Geological forms • Heat • Living systems • Magnetism • Natural resources • Nature • Reproduction & heredity • Scientific inquiry • Simple machines • Solar system • States of matter • Weather patterns	**Example Topics** • Ancient civilizations • Branches of government • Colonization • Communities • Cross-cultural experiences • Explorers • Goods & services • Historical events, figures & leaders • Immigration/Migration • Legends & scales • Maps & globes/Locations • Needs of groups, societies & cultures • Neighbors North & South • Prehistoric animals • Resources & products • Times long ago • Tools & artifacts • Topography: rivers, coasts, mountains, deserts, plains • Trade routes • U.S. documents • U.S. regions

Organization of Standards

- grade level clusters:
  - PreK-K
  - Grades 1-2
  - Grades 3-5
  - Grades 6-8
  - Grades 9-12

- language domains:
  - listening
  - speaking
  - reading
  - writing

Level 1 Entering	Level 2 Emerging	Level 3 Developing	Level 4 Expanding	Level 5 Bridging	Level 6 – Reaching

Proficiency Levels

- Level 1: Entering

- Level 2: Beginning/Emerging

- Level 3: Developing

- Level 4: Expanding

- Level 5: Bridging

- Level 6: Reaching

6 **Reaching**	• specialized or technical language reflective of the content area at grade level • a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in extended oral or written discourse as required by the specified grade level • oral or written communication in English comparable to proficient English peers
5 **Bridging**	• the technical language of the content areas; • a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in extended oral or written discourse, including stories, essays, or reports; • oral or written language approaching comparability to that of English proficient peers when presented with grade level material
4 **Expanding**	• specific and some technical language of the content areas; • a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in oral discourse or multiple, related paragraphs; • oral or written language with minimal phonological, syntactic, or semantic errors that do not impede the overall meaning of the communication when presented with oral or written connected discourse with occasional visual and graphic support
3 **Developing**	• general and some specific language of the content areas; • expanded sentences in oral interaction or written paragraphs; • oral or written language with phonological, syntactic, or semantic errors that may impede the communication but retain much of its meaning when presented with oral or written, narrative or expository descriptions with occasional visual and graphic support
2 **Beginning**	• general language related to the content areas; • phrases or short sentences; • oral or written language with phonological, syntactic, or semantic errors that often impede the meaning of the communication when presented with one to multiple-step commands, directions, questions, or a series of statements with visual and graphic support
1 **Entering**	• pictorial or graphic representation of the language of the content areas; • words, phrases, or chunks of language when presented with one-step commands, directions, WH-questions, or statements with visual and graphic support

Model Performance Indicators (MPI)

- focus on an example topic from a content area

	Level 1 Entering	Level 2 Emerging	Level 3 Developing	Level 4 Expanding	Level 5 Bridging	
READING	Identify language that indicates narrative points of view (e.g., "I" v. "he/she") from illustrated text using word/phrase banks with a partner	Identify language that indicates narrative points of view (e.g., "he felt scared") from illustrated text using word/phrase banks with a partner	Categorize passages based on narrative points of view from illustrated text using word/phrase banks with a partner	Compare narrative points of view in extended texts using graphic organizers with a partner	Compare and contrast narrative points of view in extended texts	Level 6 – Reaching

Model Performance Indicators (MPI)

- Contain three elements:
  - language function
  - example topic
  - form of support

ELP Standard 2: The Language of Language Arts, Formative Framework

WiDA CONSORTIUM

		Level 1 Entering	Level 2 Beginning	Level 3 Developing	Level 4 Expanding	Level 5 Bridging	
LISTENING	**Example Genre** / **Mysteries**	Match pictures to individual clues based on oral statements with a partner	Identify pictures associated with solutions to short mysteries read aloud with a partner	Make predictions based on pictures of clues/ pieces of evidence from mysteries and oral descriptions in cooperative groups	Sequence pictures of clues/pieces of evidence from mysteries read aloud in cooperative groups	Apply analogies of events or characters in mysteries read aloud to students' lives	**Level 6- Reaching**
	Example Topic / **Comprehension strategies**	Point to letter combinations, words, parts of books or illustrations in response to teachers' reading of illustrated books to show comprehension	Gesture during shared reading of illustrated stories or trade books (e.g., giving thumbs-up/ thumbs-down signals) to show comprehension	Follow directions (e.g., create word families or word walls) in response to group reading of illustrated stories or trade books to show comprehension	Respond non-verbally to teachers or peers (e.g., during guided reading) to demonstrate comprehension strategies	Connect information from oral reading of grade-level material to demonstrate comprehension strategies (e.g., "Show me two sentences that go together.")	
SPEAKING	**Example Genre** / **Fantasies**	Answer WH- or choice questions about pictures of imaginary people, objects or situations from peers in L1 or L2	Describe pictures of imaginary people, objects or situations to peers in L1 or L2	Provide details of pictures of imaginary people, objects or situations to peers	Develop and enact scenarios from pictures of imaginary people, objects or situations with peers	Make up fantasies about imaginary people, objects or situations and share with peers	
	Example Topic / **Points of view**	Describe self with words and gestures (e.g., features, likes and dislikes)	Compare self with familiar persons (e.g., friends, family members, movie stars) using photographs, pictures or graphic organizers	Compare self with characters in literary works using graphic organizers or technology	Compare self with motives or points of view of characters in literary works using graphic organizers or technology	Explain differences between self-motives or points of view and those of characters in literary works using graphic organizers or technology	

		Level 1 Entering	Level 2 Beginning	Level 3 Developing	Level 4 Expanding	Level 5 Bridging	
READING	**Example Genre** / **Biographies & autobiographies**	Find identifying information on biographies from words or phrases in illustrated books or word/phrase walls using physical activity	Sequence events in biographical sketches in illustrated books using graphic organizers or physical activity	Sort relevant from irrelevant biographical information in illustrated books using graphic organizers or physical activity	Compare/contrast biographical information of two persons in illustrated books using graphic organizers or physical activity	Synthesize biographical information of two persons from grade-level material to form opinions on people	**Level 6- Reaching**
	Example Topic / **Fact or opinion**	Match labels or identify facts from illustrations and phrases (e.g., "I see…," "There is…")	Identify language associated with fact in fiction or non-fiction illustrated paragraphs (e.g., "I know that…," "It is true that…")	Sort language associated with fact or opinion in fiction or non-fiction illustrated text (e.g., "I think that...," "We believe that…," "It could be...")	Differentiate between statements of fact and opinion found in various illustrated reading selections	Identify authors' purpose associated with fact or opinion in fiction or non-fiction from grade-level text	
	Fluency strategies	Use cues for sounding out unfamiliar words with accompanying visuals	Match visually supported context cues with statements to find meaning and facilitate fluency	Show how to use punctuation cues to facilitate expression and fluency with visually supported text	Identify self-monitoring and self-correcting strategies to increase fluency with visually supported text	Apply strategies to adjust pace and expression while reading orally	
WRITING	**Example Genre** / **Narratives**	Respond to illustrated events using words or phrases based on models in round tables with peers	List illustrated events using phrases or short sentences based on models in round tables with peers	Describe a series of illustrated events using related sentences in narrative form based on models in round tables with peers	Narrate a series of illustrated events using paragraph transitions in narrative form based on models and peer edits	Produce grade-level narrative stories or reports using process writing	
	Example Topic / **Editing & revising**	Produce personal word/phrase lists from labeled pictures and check with a partner for edits and revision	Create phrases/short sentences from models and check with a partner for edits and revision	Edit and revise guided writing (e.g., for conventions and structures) based on teacher feedback	Edit and revise writing (e.g., using word processing or rubrics) based on class or peer reviews	Self-assess to edit and revise writing to produce final drafts	

ELP Standard 2: The Language of **Language Arts, Formative Framework**

WIDA® CONSORTIUM

Grades 3-5

	Example Topics	Level 1 Entering	Level 2 Beginning	Level 3 Developing	Level 4 Expanding	Level 5 Bridging	
LISTENING	Atoms & molecules/ Nuclear structures	Locate components of elements or compounds from diagrams and oral statements (e.g., atomic structure)	Identify types or properties of elements or compounds from diagrams and oral statements (e.g., weight of electrons and protons)	Distinguish between types or properties of elements or compounds from diagrams and oral descriptions (e.g., isotopes, ions)	Compare/contrast functions of atomic or molecular structures or models from diagrams and oral descriptions	Analyze processes involving atomic or molecular structures from oral descriptions of grade-level material (e.g., radioactive decay)	**Level 6- Reaching**
SPEAKING	Food chains/ Life cycles	Identify components of food chains or life cycles from diagrams or graphic organizers	Give examples of components or functions of food chains or life cycles from diagrams or graphic organizers	Describe sequence within food chains or life cycles from diagrams or graphic organizers	Explain the importance or impact of the iterative nature of food chains or life cycles	Discuss how food chains or life cycles within ecosystems are interdependent	
READING	Scientific research & investigation	Identify data from scientific research from tables, charts or graphs	Match sources of data depicted in tables, charts or graphs from scientific studies with research questions	Describe use of data from scientific research presented in tables, charts or graphs with text	Interpret data from scientific research presented in text and tables	Infer significance of data presented in grade-level text on scientific research	
WRITING	Taxonomic systems	Label examples from different taxonomies using illustrations and word/phrase banks (e.g., one-celled plants and animals)	Describe in sentences features of taxonomies depicted in illustrations or graphic organizers	Summarize in a series of related sentences features of taxonomies depicted in illustrations or graphic organizers	Compare/contrast in paragraph form features of taxonomies depicted in illustrations or graphic organizers	Integrate information about taxonomic systems into essays or reports	

ELP Standard 4: The Language of **Science, Summative Framework**

WIDA CONSORTIUM

Grades 9-12

CAN-DO Descriptors

Can-Do Descriptors

Purpose:

- indicate what language ELLs can process or produce

- used for
  - differentiating instruction
  - planning lessons
  - assessing students' progress
  - helping general education teachers understand what their ELL students can be expected to do

Organization

- grade level clusters:
  - PreK-K
  - Grades 1-2
  - Grades 3-5
  - Grades 6-8
  - Grades 9-12

- language domains:
  - listening
  - speaking
  - reading
  - writing

- proficiency levels:
  - Entering
  - Beginning/Emerging
  - Developing
  - Expanding
  - Bridging

CAN DO Descriptors: Grade Level Cluster 1-2

For the given level of English language proficiency and with visual, graphic, or interactive support through Level 4, English language learners can process or produce the **language** needed to:

	Level 1 Entering	Level 2 Beginning	Level 3 Developing	Level 4 Expanding	Level 5 Bridging	Level 6 - Reaching
LISTENING	• Follow modeled, one-step oral directions (e.g., "Find a pencil.") • Identify pictures of everyday objects as stated orally (e.g., in books) • Point to real-life objects reflective of content-related vocabulary or oral statements • Mimic gestures or movement associated with statements (e.g., "This is my left hand.")	• Match oral reading of stories to illustrations • Carry out two- to three-step oral commands (e.g., "Take out your science book. Now turn to page 25.") • Sequence a series of oral statements using real objects or pictures • Locate objects described orally	• Follow modeled multi-step oral directions • Sequence pictures of stories read aloud (e.g., beginning, middle, and end) • Match people with jobs or objects with functions based on oral descriptions • Classify objects according to descriptive oral statements	• Compare/contrast objects according to physical attributes (e.g., size, shape, color) based on oral information • Find details in illustrated, narrative, or expository text read aloud • Identify illustrated activities from oral descriptions • Locate objects, figures, places based on visuals and detailed oral descriptions	• Use context clues to gain meaning from grade-level text read orally • Apply ideas from oral discussions to new situations • Interpret information from oral reading of narrative or expository text • Identify ideas/concepts expressed with grade-level content-specific language	Level 6 - Reaching
SPEAKING	• Repeat simple words, phrases, and memorized chunks of language • Respond to visually-supported (e.g., calendar) questions of academic content with one word or phrase • Identify and name everyday objects • Participate in whole group chants and songs	• Use first language to fill in gaps in oral English (code switch) • Repeat facts or statements • Describe what people do from action pictures (e.g., jobs of community workers) • Compare real-life objects (e.g., "smaller," "biggest")	• Ask questions of a social nature • Express feelings (e.g., "I'm happy because…") • Retell simple stories from picture cues • Sort and explain grouping of objects (e.g., sink v. float) • Make predictions or hypotheses • Distinguish features of content-based phenomena (e.g., caterpillar, butterfly)	• Ask questions for social and academic purposes • Participate in class discussions on familiar social and academic topics • Retell stories with details • Sequence stories with transitions	• Use academic vocabulary in class discussions • Express and support ideas with examples • Give oral presentations on content-based topics approaching grade level • Initiate conversation with peers and teachers	

The CAN DO Descriptors work in conjunction with the WIDA Performance Definitions of the English language proficiency standards. The Performance Definitions use three criteria (1. linguistic complexity; 2. vocabulary usage; and 3. language control) to describe the increasing quality and quantity of students' language processing and use across the levels of language proficiency.

CAN DO Descriptors: Grade Level Cluster 1-2

For the given level of English language proficiency and with visual, graphic, or interactive support through Level 4, English language learners can process or produce the **language** needed to:

	Level 1 Entering	Level 2 Beginning	Level 3 Developing	Level 4 Expanding	Level 5 Bridging	
READING	• Identify symbols, icons, and environmental print • Connect print to visuals • Match real-life familiar objects to labels • Follow directions using diagrams or pictures	• Search for pictures associated with word patterns • Identify and interpret pre-taught labeled diagrams • Match voice to print by pointing to icons, letters, or illustrated words • Sort words into word families	• Make text-to-self connections with prompting • Select titles to match a series of pictures • Sort illustrated content words into categories • Match phrases and sentences to pictures	• Put words in order to form sentences • Identify basic elements of fictional stories (e.g., title, setting, characters) • Follow sentence-level directions • Distinguish between general and specific language (e.g., flower v. rose) in context	• Begin using features of non-fiction text to aid comprehension • Use learning strategies (e.g., context clues) • Identify main ideas • Match figurative language to illustrations (e.g., "as big as a house")	**Level 6 - Reaching**
WRITING	• Copy written language • Use first language (L1, when L1 is a medium of instruction) to help form words in English • Communicate through drawings • Label familiar objects or pictures	• Provide information using graphic organizers • Generate lists of words/phrases from banks or walls • Complete modeled sentence starters (e.g., "I like _____.") • Describe people, places, or objects from illustrated examples and models	• Engage in prewriting strategies (e.g., use of graphic organizers) • Form simple sentences using word/phrase banks • Participate in interactive journal writing • Give content-based information using visuals or graphics	• Produce original sentences • Create messages for social purposes (e.g., get well cards) • Compose journal entries about personal experiences • Use classroom resources (e.g., picture dictionaries) to compose sentences	• Create a related series of sentences in response to prompts • Produce content-related sentences • Compose stories • Explain processes or procedures using connected sentences	

The CAN DO Descriptors work in conjunction with the WIDA Performance Definitions of the English language proficiency standards. The Performance Definitions use three criteria (1. linguistic complexity; 2. vocabulary usage; and 3. language control) to describe the increasing quality and quantity of students' language processing and use across the levels of language proficiency.

CAN DO Descriptors: Grade Level Cluster 6-8

For the given level of English language proficiency and with visual, graphic, or interactive support through Level 4, English language learners can process or produce the **language** needed to:

	Level 1 Entering	Level 2 Beginning	Level 3 Developing	Level 4 Expanding	Level 5 Bridging	Level 6 - Reaching
LISTENING	• Follow one-step oral commands/instructions • Match social language to visual/graphic displays • Identify objects, people, or places from oral statements/questions using gestures (e.g., pointing) • Match instructional language with visual representation (e.g., "Use a sharpened pencil.")	• Follow multi-step oral commands/instructions • Classify/sort content-related visuals per oral descriptions • Sequence visuals per oral directions • Identify information on charts or tables based on oral statements	• Categorize content-based examples from oral directions • Match main ideas of familiar text read aloud to visuals • Use learning strategies described orally • Identify everyday examples of content-based concepts described orally • Associate oral language with different time frames (e.g., past, present, future)	• Identify main ideas and details of oral discourse • Complete content-related tasks or assignments based on oral discourse • Apply learning strategies to new situations • Role play, dramatize, or re-enact scenarios from oral reading	• Use oral information to accomplish grade-level tasks • Evaluate intent of speech and act accordingly • Make inferences from grade-level text read aloud • Discriminate among multiple genres read orally	
SPEAKING	• Answer yes/no and choice questions • Begin to use general and high frequency vocabulary • Repeat words, short phrases, memorized chunks • Answer select WH-questions (e.g., "who," "what," "when," "where") within context of lessons or personal experiences	• Convey content through high frequency words/phrases • State big/main ideas of classroom conversation • Describe situations from modeled sentences • Describe routines and everyday events • Express everyday needs and wants • Communicate in social situations • Make requests	• Begin to express time through multiple tenses • Retell/rephrase ideas from speech • Give brief oral content-based presentations • State opinions • Connect ideas in discourse using transitions (e.g., "but," "then") • Use different registers inside and outside of class • State big/main ideas with some supporting details • Ask for clarification (e.g., self-monitor)	• Paraphrase and summarize ideas presented orally • Defend a point of view • Explain outcomes • Explain and compare content-based concepts • Connect ideas with supporting details/evidence • Substantiate opinions with reasons and evidence	• Defend a point of view and give reasons • Use and explain metaphors and similes • Communicate with fluency in social and academic contexts • Negotiate meaning in group discussions • Discuss and give examples of abstract, content-based ideas (e.g., democracy, justice)	

The CAN DO Descriptors work in conjunction with the WIDA Performance Definitions of the English language proficiency standards. The Performance Definitions use three criteria (1. linguistic complexity; 2. vocabulary usage; and 3. language control) to describe the increasing quality and quantity of students' language processing and use across the levels of language proficiency.

CAN DO Descriptors: Grade Level Cluster 6-8

For the given level of English language proficiency and with visual, graphic, or interactive support through Level 4, English language learners can process or produce the **language** needed to:

	Level 1 Entering	Level 2 Beginning	Level 3 Developing	Level 4 Expanding	Level 5 Bridging	
READING	• Associate letters with sounds and objects • Match content–related objects/pictures to words • Identify common symbols, signs, and words • Recognize concepts of print • Find single word responses to WH- questions (e.g., "who," "what," "when," "where") related to illustrated text • Use picture dictionaries/illustrated glossaries	• Sequence illustrated text of fictional and non-fictional events • Locate main ideas in a series of simple sentences • Find information from text structure (e.g., titles, graphs, glossary) • Follow text read aloud (e.g., tapes, teacher, paired-readings) • Sort/group pre-taught words/phrases • Use pre-taught vocabulary (e.g., word banks) to complete simple sentences • Use L1 to support L2 (e.g., cognates) • Use bilingual dictionaries and glossaries	• Identify topic sentences, main ideas, and details in paragraphs • Identify multiple meanings of words in context (e.g., "cell," "table") • Use context clues • Make predictions based on illustrated text • Identify frequently used affixes and root words to make/extract meaning (e.g., "un-," "re-," "-ed") • Differentiate between fact and opinion • Answer questions about explicit information in texts • Use English dictionaries and glossaries	• Order paragraphs • Identify summaries of passages • Identify figurative language (e.g., "dark as night") • Interpret adapted classics or modified text • Match cause to effect • Identify specific language of different genres and informational texts • Use an array of strategies (e.g., skim and scan for information)	• Differentiate and apply multiple meanings of words/phrases • Apply strategies to new situations • Infer meaning from modified grade-level text • Critique material and support argument • Sort grade-level text by genre	**Level 6 - Reaching**
WRITING	• Draw content-related pictures • Produce high frequency words • Label pictures and graphs • Create vocabulary/concept cards • Generate lists from pre-taught words/phrases and word banks (e.g., create menu from list of food groups)	• Complete pattern sentences • Extend "sentence starters" with original ideas • Connect simple sentences • Complete graphic organizers/forms with personal information • Respond to yes/no, choice, and some WH- questions	• Produce short paragraphs with main ideas and some details (e.g., column notes) • Create compound sentences (e.g., with conjunctions) • Explain steps in problem-solving • Compare/contrast information, events, characters • Give opinions, preferences, and reactions along with reasons	• Create multiple-paragraph essays • Justify ideas • Produce content-related reports • Use details/examples to support ideas • Use transition words to create cohesive passages • Compose intro/body/conclusion • Paraphrase or summarize text • Take notes (e.g., for research)	• Create expository text to explain graphs/charts • Produce research reports using multiple sources/citations • Begin using analogies • Critique literary essays or articles	

The CAN DO Descriptors work in conjunction with the WIDA Performance Definitions of the English language proficiency standards. The Performance Definitions use three criteria (1. linguistic complexity; 2. vocabulary usage; and 3. language control) to describe the increasing quality and quantity of students' language processing and use across the levels of language proficiency.

http://www.wida.us

For more information and to download the standards