

INTRODUCTION

The West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) English Language Development (ELD) Standards were developed by a committee comprised of West Contra Costa Unified teachers, program assistants and administrators with expertise in ELD and in the assessment of English learners (ELs). These standards are designed to assist teachers and administrators in moving English learners to proficiency in English as a new language and also to proficiency on the WCCUSD English Language Arts (ELA) Standards.

The WCCUSD ELD Standards are designed to lay the foundation for success in meeting the WCCUSD ELA Standards to ensure that ELs develop proficiency in both the English language and the concepts and skills contained in the WCCUSD ELA Standards.

The State "Reading/Language Arts Framework" assumes that all students will attain proficiency on the ELA Standards, but it also recognizes that not all learners will acquire skills and knowledge at the same rate. By definition, English learners will need to "catch up" to the district's monolingual English speakers. The WCCUSD ELD Standards address skills ELs must acquire in initial English learning to enable them to become proficient on the WCCUSD ELA Standards.

The processes by which ELs develop proficiency in a second language (English) differ from the experiences of monolingual English speakers. Grammatical structures that monolingual English speakers learn early in their language development may be learned much later by students learning English as a second language. Progress to full competency for ELs depends on the age at which a child begins learning English and the richness of the child's English environment. The WCCUSD ELD Standards will provide teachers with information they can use to ensure that English language development is occurring appropriately for all students, including ELs who enter school in:

- Kindergarten through grade 2
- Grades 3-12, literate in their primary language
- Grades 3-12, not literate in their primary language

The WCCUSD ELD Standards delineate the proficiency levels required to move through the levels of English language development. They are

designed to move all students, regardless of their instructional program, into the mainstream English language arts curriculum. The WCCUSD ELD Standards were designed around five proficiency levels to provide teachers in all types of programs clear benchmarks of progress at all levels of language acquisition. The WCCUSD ELD Standards are arranged according to the different structures of ELD delivery in the elementary and secondary programs. The WCCUSD Elementary ELD Standards are arranged across proficiency levels by grade span. The WCCUSD Secondary ELD Standards are arranged by proficiency levels for the middle and high schools.

The WCCUSD ELD Standards are written as pathways to the District ELA Standards. At the early proficiency levels, one ELD standard may be a pathway to several ELA standards. At the more advanced proficiency levels, the skills in the ELD standards more closely approximate those of the ELA standards and represent the standards at which an EL has attained academic proficiency in English. The ELD Standards integrate listening, speaking, reading and writing and create a distinct pathway to reading in English rather than delaying the introduction of English reading.

*West Contra Costa UDS
English Language Development Standards*

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