

The current *K-12 NC English Language Development Standard Course of Study*, also referred to as the ESL Essential Standards, is the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language Proficiency Standards [approved by the State Board of Education June 5, 2008]. The WIDA Standards and this document are to be utilized by English as a Second Language (ESL) and content/subject area teachers of English Language Learners (ELLs).

The purpose of this document is to increase student achievement by ensuring educators understand what an English language learner must know and be able to do in social and academic contexts. The unpacked content standards are organized by:

- five grade spans according to the WIDA model: Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12;
- the four language domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing; and
- five levels of English language proficiency (ELP): entering, beginning, developing, expanding, bridging. *ELP levels divide the second language acquisition continuum into stages of language development based upon the acquisition of three components of language: linguistic complexity, vocabulary usage, and language control. Various factors and life experiences influence the pace at which individual English learners acquire a new language and progress through these levels. The ELP levels are described in the WIDA Performance Definitions below. The Performance Definitions illustrate the continuum of language acquisition but make no distinctions between grade levels.*

Each standard is presented in a series of charts according to grade spans and language domains. “Can do” statements provide a sampling of language skills an English language learner should be able to do at each proficiency level and language domain.