



Glenda Ritz, NBCT

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

Indiana English Language Development Standards: WIDA

Adopted: December 2013

Why does a state have ELP standards? The Indiana English Language Development Standards (WIDA) meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 by providing a framework for standards-based instructional and assessment planning for English language learners so that they may attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic attainment in English, and meet the same challenging Indiana academic content and student academic achievement standards as all children are expected to meet [1111(b)(1) and 3111(b)(2)(C)(ii)]. According to Indiana's ESEA Flexibility Waiver, Indiana will provide professional development and other supports to prepare teachers to teach all students including English learners. To support ELs' transition to College and Career Ready standards, the IDOE committed, in its approved ESEA flexibility request, to adopt ELP standards. Indiana adopted the WIDA English language development standards to comply with these requirements.

Connection to Indiana Academic Standards: The 5 WIDA standards and framework consists of 5 components:

- Can Do Philosophy
- Guiding Principles of Language Development
- Age Appropriate Academic Language in Socio-Cultural Context
- Performance Definitions
- Strands of Model Performance Indicators

How are these different from the 2003 standards? The 2003 ELP standards focus on reading, writing, listening, and speaking in the context of language arts only. WIDA offers 5 standards (social and instructional language, language of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) to ensure English learners are successful in attaining English proficiency while being used to ensure equitable access to the Indiana Academic Standards.

How are the ELP standards used? WIDA English language development standards utilize the Indiana Academic Standards to teach the social, instructional, and academic language that students need to engage with peers, educators, and the curriculum in schools. The standards allow educators to recognize and support their students' academic language development and achievement serving as a foundation for curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The WIDA ELD standards allow English learners to communicate effectively for social and instructional purposes and academic content in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Who teaches the ELD standards? All educators with English learners in their classroom are responsible for utilizing the WIDA standards and framework to ensure equitable access for all. We must ensure the ELD standards and Indiana Academic Standards are used collaboratively to create a continuous pathway to academic success for Indiana's English learners.