

FAQ Series: Big Ideas of the 2020 Edition



What are the Big Ideas anchoring the 2020 Edition?

Four Big Ideas are interwoven throughout the 2020 Edition of the WIDA ELD Standards Framework—equity of opportunity and access, integration of content and language, collaboration among stakeholders, and a functional approach to language development. While these ideas have been part of the WIDA ELD Standards Framework since the first edition was released in 2004, they are further highlighted and emphasized in the 2020 Edition.

Why are these Big Ideas important to the 2020 Edition?

- Equity of access and opportunity is essential for multilingual learners' preparation for college, career, and civic lives.
- Multilingual learners develop content and language concurrently. Academic content is the context for language learning and language is a means for learning academic content.
- Stakeholders share responsibility for educating multilingual learners; their collaboration is essential.
- A functional approach to language development helps educators focus on the purposeful use of language.



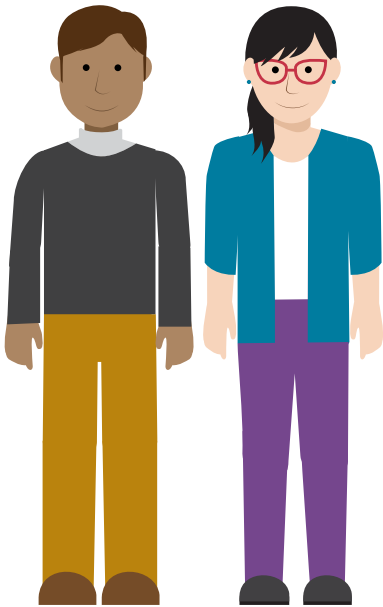
These Big Ideas work together to support the design of standards-based educational experiences that are student-centered, culturally and linguistically sustaining, and responsive to multilingual learners' strengths and needs.

How are the Big Ideas related to the WIDA Guiding Principles of Language Development?

Both the Big Ideas and the guiding principles can help educators plan and deliver instruction, build on the strengths of multilingual learners and support them in meeting rigorous, grade-level academic content standards. The updated principles reflect the overall WIDA Can Do Philosophy and emphasize the importance of language in learning. The Guiding Principles of Language Development are [now available in 13 languages](#), as well as offered in an [illustrated edition](#).



Where can I learn more about the Big Ideas?



Section 1 introduces the Big Ideas that are threaded throughout the document. For more detailed information, you can read Appendix F, Theoretical Foundations of the [WIDA ELD Standards Framework](#). Appendix F provides an overview of the theory of the Big Ideas in the 2020 Edition. Additionally, Focus Bulletins related to collaboration and equity (two of the Big Ideas in the 2020 Edition) are now available on the ELD Standards Framework page of the WIDA website. Future Focus Bulletins will further explore the Big Ideas.