

WIDA English Language Development
Standards Framework, 2020 Edition

FAQ Series: Introduction to the 2020 Edition



Why did WIDA develop a new edition of the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards Framework?

The WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition, was developed to

- Refresh the existing WIDA ELD Standards Framework to remain current with policy and theory, and to align with academic content standards and disciplinary practices.
- Continue to break new ground to advance the field of language development in support of disciplinary learning for students who are culturally and linguistically diverse.

What are the Big Ideas in the new edition?

Four Big Ideas are threaded throughout the 2020 Edition.

- Equity of opportunity
- Integration of content and language
- Functional approach to language development
- Collaboration among stakeholders

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

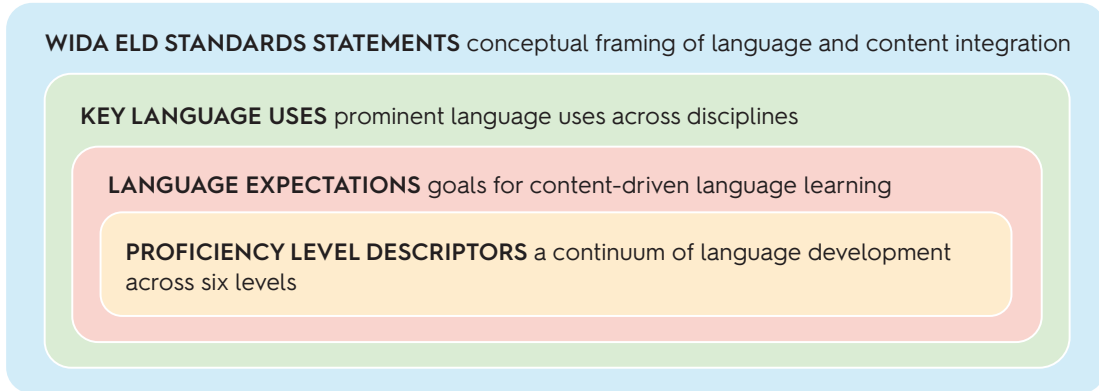


Visit the [ELD Standards Framework](#) webpage to see more FAQs in this series, along with additional supporting resources and the 2020 Edition.

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What are the components of the new framework?

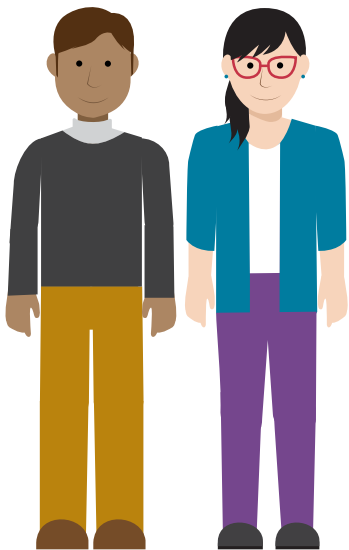
The four components are the WIDA ELD Standards Statements, Key Language Uses, Language Expectations, and Proficiency Level Descriptors. The components work together like building blocks to create a comprehensive picture of language development. The 2020 Edition explains the four components in detail.



What are the major shifts in the 2020 Edition, and what has remained the same?

2007 and 2012 Standards	WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition
Can Do Philosophy	The Can Do Philosophy remains unchanged
Guiding Principles of Language Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Guiding Principles of Language Development were updated in June 2019 and are now offered in 13 languages and in an illustrated version In the 2020 Edition, four Big Ideas further highlight these guiding principles
The five original Standards Statements	The five original Standards Statements remain unchanged
Six English language proficiency levels	Six English language proficiency levels remain unchanged
Performance Definitions (K-12)	<p>In the 2020 Edition, Proficiency Level Descriptors (PLDs) maintain consistency with the 2012 Performance Definitions, but expand them and add grade-level cluster specificity. PLDs are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented in grade-level clusters that correspond to those for ACCESS for ELLs Online (K, 1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12) Expressed through the same three dimensions of language present in the 2012 edition (discourse, sentence, word/phrase), though the dimensions of language table is reconfigured for the 2020 Edition

2007 and 2012 Standards	WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition
<p>Model Performance Indicators (MPIs)</p>	<p>In response to requests from the field, the 2020 Edition retires the generative MPIs. In their place, more stable Language Expectations add specificity and concreteness to the WIDA ELD Standards Statements. Language Expectations are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals for content-driven language learning • Derived from academic content standards • Intended to add specificity to the WIDA ELD Standards Statements and Key Language Uses • Intended to make visible the language associated with the content areas • Expressed as statements most similar to those found in academic content standards
<p>Four language domains (listening, speaking, reading, writing)</p>	<p>The four language domains are expanded into two broader modes of communication: interpretive (listening, reading, <i>and viewing</i>) and expressive (speaking, writing, <i>and representing</i>)</p>
<p>Key Uses of academic language were introduced in the Can Do Descriptors, Key Uses Edition (2016). They included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recount • Explain • Argue • Discuss 	<p>Key Language Uses are redefined as high-leverage genre families that appear across academic content standards, helping educators organize and coordinate instruction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recount → Inform Narrate • Explain • Argue • Discuss → Discuss is not a genre family but remains recognized and important, as it's embedded through all Key Language Uses.
<p>Can Do Descriptors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Can Do Descriptors will remain available as a valuable tool for communicating with stakeholders about what students can do at each of the six English language proficiency levels • The Can Do Descriptors are related to the ELD Standards Framework, but don't replace them. Instead, they supplement them during instruction



Where can I access the 2020 Edition and in what formats?



As with past editions, the 2020 Edition is available for viewing and downloading on the [WIDA website](#). Printed copies are available for purchase from the [WIDA Store](#).



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