

**Virginia Department of Education
Office of Program Administration and Accountability**

**Implementing the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA)
English Language Development (ELD) Standards**

Section 3113(b)(2) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) requires states to establish standards and objectives for raising the level of English proficiency derived from the language domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing that are aligned with the state academic content standards.

The *Lau v Nichols* Supreme Court Decision of 1974 requires that school divisions develop an effective language instruction program for English language learners (ELLs) to attain English proficiency and provide them the opportunity to fully and meaningfully participate in the same academic curriculum as all students.

On March 19, 2008, the Virginia Board of Education adopted the English language proficiency (ELP) standards developed by the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) consortium as the statewide ELP standards for Virginia.

The Virginia Board of Education meeting minutes for March 19, 2008, are available at:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2008/03_mar/minutes.pdf.

In 2012, the WIDA consortium released the Amplified English Language Development (ELD) standards. The WIDA ELD standards serve as a critical resource for:

- understanding the linguistic needs and abilities of ELLs;
- creating successful instructional models for ELLs; and
- monitoring the academic success of ELLs as they progress through the five stages of English language proficiency.

More information on the WIDA ELD standards is provided at the following link:
<http://www.wida.us/standards>

Implementation of the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language Development (ELD) Standards

The goal of a division language instruction program for ELLs is to increase both English language proficiency and academic language proficiency in content area classrooms. Successful programs should focus on collaboration and shared accountability for the success of ELLs. The Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL), in conjunction with the WIDA ELD standards, should guide the development of the division language instruction program. Furthermore, the WIDA ELD standards should be incorporated into instructional practices and strategies in K-12 classrooms that include ELLs. Elements of a successful language instruction program include: 1) providing professional development to administrators, general education teachers, and other educators of ELLs to understand the WIDA ELD standards and how they may be incorporated into existing instructional frameworks; 2) establishing mechanisms for sharing effective practices across classrooms and schools; and 3) establishing methods to evaluate whether the WIDA ELD standards are successfully being implemented in K-12 classrooms with ELLs.

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