

**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 1111(b)(1)(F) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, requires State plans to demonstrate that the State has adopted English language proficiency standards that:

- “(i) are derived from the 4 recognized domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing;
- “(ii) address the different proficiency levels of English learners; and
- “(iii) are aligned with the challenging State academic standards.

On March 19, 2008, the Virginia Board of Education adopted the English Language Development (ELD) standards developed by the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) consortium as the statewide ELD 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 ELs;
- creating successful instructional models for ELs; and
- monitoring the academic success of ELs as they progress through the stages of English language proficiency.

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

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

Federal expectations require that school divisions develop and implement a language instructional education program (LIEP), that in the view of legitimate experts, has a reasonable chance of success. School divisions must also ensure that the ELs are being provided language assistance that allows them to access grade level core curriculum to succeed in the general education setting.

The goal of a division language instruction educational program (LIEP) for ELs is to increase both English language proficiency and academic language proficiency in content area classrooms. Successful LIEP programs should focus on collaboration and shared accountability for the success of ELs. The Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL), in conjunction with the WIDA ELD standards, should guide the development of the division LIEP. Furthermore, the WIDA ELD standards should be incorporated into instructional practices and strategies in K-12 classrooms that include ELs. Elements of a successful LIEP include: 1) providing professional development to administrators, general education teachers, and other educators of ELs 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 ELs.

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