



#057-21

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #057-21

DATE: March 5, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **English Language Development (ELD) Standards Framework Implementation
Timeline and Support**

The [WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition: Kindergarten-Grade 12](#) was publicly released on December 18, 2020 and announced statewide in January via [Superintendent's Memo #006-21](#). Virginia's English Language Development (ELD) Standards and Assessments are adopted from WIDA and the roll-out and implementation processes may differ from that of the Standards of Learning (SOL). The ELD Standards statements have not changed but are now situated in a new framework with new language expectations.

Curriculum and instruction alignment efforts to the content of the new *WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition* will require planning, time, staff development, and resources. The Virginia Department of Education's goal for the implementation phases allows both the state and divisions to build awareness and capacity of educators, as well as to plan and prepare for implementation for the remainder of the 2020 school year through the 2022-2023 school year. The draft implementation timeline below includes consideration of the conditions of the pandemic that are affecting school divisions, staff, and students differently:

- Phase 1: Building awareness, late winter 2021-summer 2022
- Phase 2: Planning and preparing, to include piloting implementation plans and processes, summer 2022-summer 2023
- Phase 3: Implementing and sustaining, starting in fall of 2023

Implementation of the new 2020 Framework in [Language Instruction Educational Program \(LIEP\) Models in Virginia](#) (DOCX) will be exemplified in part through:

- Content driven lesson plans;
- Explicit attention to academic language (key language uses and language expectations); within all language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening);
- Differentiated instruction and materials to ELs' language proficiency levels; and
- ELD Standards and practices above included within observation and evaluation processes for teachers.

The Virginia Department of Education will offer various professional learning options and resources to support divisions as they work to roll-out the new ELD Standards Framework. Please register for any sessions of interest listed in the accompanying attachment.

To provide input related to the new ELD Standards Framework roll-out and support provided at the state level, [please complete this survey](#).

For more information

For questions about English Learner instruction and programs, please contact Dr. Jessica Costa, English Learner Instruction Specialist, at Jessica.Costa@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 786-3927.

For questions about the expectations for implementation at the division level for the purposes of accountability and compliance, please contact Louise Marks, Title III Coordinator, at Louise.Marks@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2901.

JFL/JAC/eir

- A. Attachment: [English Language Development \(ELD\) Standards Framework Implementation Trainings Available](#) (DOCX)