

Explanation of ELDA Levels in Kindergarten-2nd Grade

Explanation of Levels

The English Language Development Assessment (ELDA) measures the English language skills of students whose first language is other than English. There are scores in the areas of Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, and Comprehension. A Composite score is also given.

Level 1 – Pre-functional indicates that the student who is limited English proficient:

- Achieves written communication only through drawing pictures; may be able to copy letters or words successfully; or may form letters from memory but is unable to transmit meaning
- Demonstrates an understanding of concepts of print (left to right, top to bottom) and can follow one-step directions depicted graphically
- May speak or repeat common phrases and words and can ask one- to two-word questions
- May understand some isolated spoken words, commands, and questions, but often requires non-verbal cues and frequent repetition

Level 2 – Beginning indicates that the student who is limited English proficient:

- Understands short, simple oral statements on familiar topics; follows simple multi-step directions; requires frequent repetition and rephrasing
- Predominantly uses formulaic speech patterns and memorized phrases; responds to questions with one- to two-word answers
- Begins to identify the names of letters; begins to recognize the different functions of words; can follow multi-step directions depicted graphically
- Achieves written communication through drawing pictures or dictating words; can revise or edit with teacher support; commits frequent mechanical errors

Level 3 – Intermediate indicates that the student who is limited English proficient:

- Understands sentence-length statements and questions; understands main idea and some details from conversations and simple oral texts; is beginning to develop key vocabulary, interpret meaning, and understand some idioms
- Restructures learned language into original speech; has limited vocabulary and marked errors in speech; can use language to retell, describe, narrate, question, and instruct, but not fluently
- Comprehends single words and simple text, as well as simple sentence structure and simple compounding; recognizes the different functions of words, and that words have multiple meanings
- Participates in writing activities with teacher support; writes simple and compound sentences; is beginning to write with phrases; uses transition words; can edit, usually with teacher support; most writing is descriptive, expository, procedural, or narrative

continued

Explanation of ELDA Levels in Kindergarten-2nd Grade

Level 4 – Advanced indicates that the student who is limited English proficient:

- Understands most school/social conversations; grasps main ideas and relevant details; comprehends most grade-level vocabulary and idioms; is developing a wide range of academic vocabulary in the content areas
- Restructures language to communicate orally; uses connective devices; responds in a mostly coherent, unified, and sequenced manner; has sufficient vocabulary to communicate in most situations; is fluent but may hesitate or make errors in spontaneous communicative situations
- Reads familiar text with little support, but needs support to comprehend unfamiliar text; identifies all story elements; is beginning to read across text types and apply what they read to other activities
- Participates in writing activities with minimal support; restructures known language in writing; writes mostly coherent, unified, and sequenced sentences; uses connective devices and a range of grammatical structures, with some errors; possesses a strong social vocabulary and a functional academic vocabulary; writes and edits all text types

Level 5 – Full English Proficiency indicates that the student who is limited English proficient:

- Understands most grade-level speech, both social and academic; understands main ideas and relevant details at a level comparable to a native English speaker at the same grade level; has a broad range of vocabulary including idiomatic language
- Responds orally in a coherent, unified, and sequenced manner; uses a variety of connective devices; understands and uses a range of simple and complex grammatical structures; has grammar and vocabulary comparable to a native English speaker at the same grade level and shows flexibility, creativity and spontaneity speaking in many contexts
- Participates in reading activities at grade level comparable to their English speaking peers with little teacher support; reads across text types; has an increasing range of social and academic vocabulary; understands multiple word meanings
- Participates in writing activities with no teacher support; edits complex sentence structures with some errors; utilizes precise social and academic vocabulary; understands the use of nuance and subtlety in writing for different audiences

Explanation of ELDA Levels in Grades 3rd-12th

Explanation of Levels

The English Language Development Assessment (ELDA) measures the English language skills of students whose first language is other than English. There are scores in the areas of Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, and Comprehension. A Composite score is also given.

Level 1 - Pre-functional indicates that the student who is limited English proficient is:

- Beginning to use gestures and simple words to communicate
- Beginning to develop communicative writing skills
- Beginning to understand simple printed material
- Beginning to understand short utterances

Level 2 - Beginning indicates that the student who is limited English proficient can:

- Understand simple statements, directions, and questions
- Use appropriate strategies to initiate and respond to simple conversation
- Understand the general message of basic reading passages
- Compose short informative passages on familiar topics

Level 3 - Intermediate indicates that the student who is limited English proficient can:

- Understand standard speech delivered in school and social settings
- Communicate orally with some hesitation
- Understand descriptive material within familiar contexts and some complex narratives
- Write simple texts and short reports

Level 4 - Advanced indicates that the student who is limited English proficient can:

- Identify the main ideas and relevant details of discussions or presentations on a wide range of topics
- Actively engage in most communicative situations familiar or unfamiliar
- Understand the context of most text in academic areas with support
- Write multi-paragraph essays, journal entries, personal/business letters, and creative texts in an organized fashion with some errors

Level 5 - Full English Proficiency indicates that the student who is limited English proficient can:

- Understand and identify the main ideas and relevant details of extended discussion or presentations on familiar and unfamiliar topics
- Produce fluent and accurate language
- Use reading strategies the same as their native English-speaking peers to derive meaning from a wide range of both social and academic texts
- Write fluently using language structures, technical vocabulary, and appropriate writing conventions with some circumlocutions