



Los Angeles Unified School District
Multilingual Multicultural Education Department
California English Language Development Standards
Independent Study Guide

**Overview of the California English Language Development Standards
and Proficiency Level Descriptors**

Purpose: This Overview introduces the characteristics of various English learner students and provides background information for the CA ELD Standards. It also lays out the organization and the structure of the ELD standards and provides Proficiency Level Descriptors (PLDs) for English Learners.

Key Points

- ELD standards are used by all content teachers.
- The PLDs represent English language development as a part of a continuum from native language competencies to lifelong language learning.
- The CA ELD Standards are organized in two main sections. Section 1 provides a foundation for an orientation to the standards. Section 2 provides detailed grade level ELD standards with the corresponding CCSS-ELA.
- The CA ELD Standards cannot be taught in isolation, but must be used in the context of developing meaningful, intellectual interaction.

Key Terms

- Proficiency Level Descriptors: Emerging, Expanding, Bridging.
- Modes of Communication
- Dimensions of Knowledge of Language
- Foundational Literacy Skills

Essential Question for Reading: How can educators use the CA ELD Standards documents to identify and clarify the knowledge, skills and abilities needed help ELs engage with and master the CCSS?

