



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 5, 2026

To: Local Educational Agency Leads

Route To: District Directors of Curriculum and Instruction, Bilingual and ESL Supervisors, Content Area Supervisors, School Administrators, Bilingual and ESL Educators, and General Education Teachers

From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Kimberly Murray, Ed.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Launch of the WIDA English Language Development Standards Website

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce the launch of the New Jersey WIDA English Language Development Standards website. Developed in collaboration with WIDA at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, this centralized resource is designed to support implementation of the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition.

The WIDA English Language Development Standards support the integration of language development and grade-level academic learning. The standards help educators design equitable, standards-aligned learning experiences that build upon multilingual learners' linguistic and cultural assets while supporting access to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Website Resources

The new website, housed on the [New Jersey Student Learning Standards homepage](#), provides educators and school and district leaders with:

- New Jersey's intent, mission and vision for English language development (ELD);
- Guidance for implementing the English Language Development Standards across content areas and educational settings;
- An overview of the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, including the four Big Ideas, five ELD Standards Statements, Key Language Uses, Language Expectations, and Proficiency Level Descriptors;
- Direct access to WIDA ELD Standards resources organized by grade-level cluster, including Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grades 2–3, Grades 4–5, Grades 6–8, and Grades 9–12;
- Additional resources connecting the WIDA ELD Standards to English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies; and
- Related state guidance, administrative code, and professional resources that support multilingual learners.

The website reinforces that language development is a shared responsibility among all educators who work with multilingual learners. The resources are intended to support collaboration among bilingual and ESL educators, content-area teachers, specialists, administrators, and other educational partners.

Recommended Actions

Local educational agencies are encouraged to:

- Share the website with administrators, instructional leaders, bilingual and ESL educators, content-area teachers, specialists and other staff who support multilingual learners;
- Use the resources to strengthen curriculum development, instructional planning and professional learning;
- Review the grade-level cluster resources when identifying appropriate language expectations and supports for multilingual learners; and
- Promote collaboration among educators to integrate language development and content learning across classrooms.

Contact Information

Questions regarding the website or implementation of the WIDA English Language Development Standards may be directed to the Office of Supplemental Educational Programs at ML@doe.nj.gov.