

An Inclusive Vision for Success: Helping California English Learners Achieve Standards

When California adopted the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and literacy in 2010, one big question was how to ensure that the state's million-plus English learner students would be able to meet these rigorous academic expectations. For help, the state turned to the California Comprehensive Center at WestEd. The center was asked to create new California English language development (ELD) standards aligned with the Common Core standards, as well as a curriculum framework to guide K–12 teachers in implementing both sets of standards.

THE CHALLENGES

- 1 Ensuring that all California students, regardless of English language proficiency, are supported to meet rigorous academic standards.
- 2 Creating new ELD standards that are aligned with new content standards and that reflect the most up-to-date research on how academic English is acquired.
- 3 Supporting teachers, principals, and district leaders to adapt their practices to ensure that English learner students meet new standards.

THE SOLUTIONS

The California Comprehensive Center:

- Analyzed the new Common Core standards, reviewed the most current research on English language development, and examined other states' and countries' ELD policies to draft California's updated ELD standards.
- Developed standards transparently and collaboratively to generate broad acceptance: convening a diverse committee of professionals to review draft standards, soliciting public and expert feedback over ten months, and revising the standards accordingly.
- Helped the California Department of Education create the English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework to aid educators in implementing the standards. Despite its name, the framework helps teachers in all disciplines attend to students' language and literacy needs.
- Assisted the California Department of Education with the development of new resources, including online professional learning modules and training materials, to further guide understanding and implementation of the new standards and related framework.
- Co-organized and -facilitated 12 statewide framework launch events attended by 3,510 school, district, and county office of education personnel; followed up with ongoing regional support events through the county offices. Conducted multiple trainings hosted by the English Language Coordinators Network, which comprises English language leaders from California's county offices and large districts.
- Supported the California Department of Education to integrate the ELD Standards and key principles from the framework into other California frameworks, including those for Science, History/Social Studies, and Health Education.

THE IMPACT



The California State Board of Education **approved and adopted** the new ELD Standards in 2012 and the ELA/ELD Framework in 2014.



The California State University, the largest generator of new California teachers, comprehensively updated teacher preparation programs at all 23 campuses to reflect the ELD standards – better preparing the state's future educators to effectively instruct English learners.



The ELA/ELD Framework and ELD Standards provide a consistent **statewide approach** to serving English learner students over the course of its estimated 10-year lifetime.

The ELA/ELD Framework was distributed to California's

1,025 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

58 COUNTY OFFICES OF EDUCATION

AND

1,000 CHARTER SCHOOLS.



Since 2012, online resources and training materials developed in collaboration with the California Department of Education were accessed over **1.3 million times.**

"We are huge fans of the framework and infuse it in all the work we do. It is front and center in all of our professional learning."

– Staff Member, County Office of Education

SOURCES:

Yopp, H. K., Spycher, P., & Brynson, N. (2016). California's vision of ELA/ELD instruction. *The California Reader*, 49(3), 8–20.

California English Language Development Standards (Electronic Edition): Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, California Department of Education.

California ELA/ELD Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, California Department of Education.