# Tri-District English as a Second Language Curriculum 2008

**Grades K-12** 



Mr. Patrick Fletcher
Superintendent
River Dell Regional Schools

Ms. Lorraine Brooks
Principal
River Dell High School

Mr. Richard Freedman
Principal
River Dell Middle School

Mr. Jeffrey Mohre Superintendent Oradell Public School

Mr. Scott Ryan
Principal
Oradell Public School

Ms. Suzanne Lynch
Tri-District Supervisor
Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Erika Steinbauer Superintendent River Edge Public Schools

Ms. Denise Heitman
Principal
Cherry Hill School

Mr. Tony Vouvalides
Principal
Roosevelt School

Tri-District English as a Second Language Committee

Jennifer Kelly Judie Haynes Linda Gonzalez Monica Schnee

# **Table of Contents**

| I.    | <u>Introduction</u>                                   | Page 3           |
|-------|---|------------------|
| II.   | <b>Philosophy</b>                                     | Page 4           |
| III.  | Curriculum Alignment to the WIDA English Language Pr  |                  |
| IV.   | ESL Methods and Techniques                            | Page 6<br>Page 7 |
| v.    | Sample Thematic Units                                 | Page 10          |
| VI.   | The Instructional Setting                             | Page 39          |
| VII.  | <b>Professional Development</b>                       | Page 40          |
| VIII. | Parent Involvement                                    | Page 41          |
| IX.   | Entry Criteria for the ESL Program                    | Page 43          |
| х.    | Exit Criteria for the ESL Program                     | Page 44          |
| XI.   | ESL Concepts and Strategies for Content Area Teachers | Page 45          |
| XII.  | Glossary  | Page 52          |
| XIII. | <b>Bibliography</b>                                   | Page 55          |

### I. Introduction

The purpose of the Tri-District English as a Second Language (ESL) curriculum is to provide both current and new teachers with an overview of skills and strategies. This document is intended to serve as a curriculum for ESL teachers as well as a resource for content area teachers. The implementation of this curriculum is to ensure that ESL students receive instruction based on their language proficiency and/or grade level. Students will receive instruction in a pull-out and/or inclusion classroom setting.

The Tri-District ESL curriculum is designed in coordination with the New Jersey Language Proficiency standards along with World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium English Language Proficiency standards for English language learners.

# II. Philosophy

The Oradell, River Edge, and River Dell staffs believe that all students should be engaged in meaningful learning throughout the school day. We provide a broad, whole-school approach to support the education of linguistically and culturally diverse students, so that they can benefit fully from their educational experience. Our school community must be ready to help English Language Learners (ELLs) become productive individuals through a comprehensive, challenging and enriching educational program in the mainstream learning environment.

Our ESL program should allow ELLs to gain long-term personal, social and academic success in the United States and is a coordinated Tri-District effort. Non-English speaking students arriving in the United States have often been separated from all that is familiar: family, friends, school, home, culture and the use of their own language in the greater community. Our program is designed to offer instruction in a low anxiety and sympathetic setting that is critical to alleviating the cultural shock experienced by our ELLs.

The education of the Tri-District's ELLs is the responsibility of everyone in the buildings. The ESL program does not relinquish responsibility for our ELLs at the end of the ESL instructional period. With the help of ESL teachers, classroom teachers provide comprehensible input while the students are in the mainstream class. Teachers have been trained in differentiating instruction and modified materials are provided for all beginning ESL students to be used throughout the school day.

The following should be considered as an anchor to guide the Tri-District's ESL philosophy:

- To develop English language learners command of English in the four basic skills of
  listening, speaking, reading and writing so that they will be able to function in the
  mainstream classroom. Success is measured by multiple criteria. A student is
  considered successful when able to compete with native English speakers in the
  classroom during content area instruction.
- To ease the transition of new English language learners (ELLs) from one culture to another.
- To provide instruction to ensure the ELLs make Annual Yearly Progress (AYP).

- To plan effective English language instruction for ELLs as part of a district-wide comprehensive effort, which will help them meet the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards and the WIDA Standards.
- To provide on-going professional development to content area teachers in second language acquisition, diverse cultures, and understanding of increased standardized test expectations for ELLs mandated by state and federal law.
- To assist classroom teachers in modifying lessons and assignments for ELLs during the hours that they are in the mainstream classroom. This includes the purchase of modified resources.
- To help classroom teachers prepare ELLs in meeting the Core Curriculum Content Standards. Adaptations for content area materials and content-based ESL instruction aid the students' transition from the ESL program to the mainstream classroom.
- To recognize that parents of ELLs in all grade levels need explicit instruction and ongoing support to understand the expectations of their school culture. This includes providing information to immigrant families about school programs and policies and encouraging parental involvement with translated school mailings, team meetings, parent/teacher conferences, Back-to-School night, and the ESL/Bilingual Parent Advisory Meetings.
- To communicate with the Tri-District ESL teachers regarding student progress and assessment, including obtaining ACCESS test results.
- To develop in the school-wide community an understanding and appreciation of the linguistic and cultural diversity of our student population.
- To continue establishing home/community exchanges of cultural information that can enrich the instruction activities of the mainstream student population.
- To include the parents of ELLs in the educational support of the Tri-District K-12 curriculum initiatives.

# III. Curriculum Alignment to the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards

The Tri-District curriculum is aligned to the WIDA standards and the philosophy behind the standards is woven into the new curriculum. The WIDA Standards are aligned to the state academic content standard as well as to the TESOL Standards (http://www.wida.us/standards/Resource Guide web.pdf).

The New Jersey Bilingual Code has adopted the WIDA Standards as the benchmark for English Language Proficiency (ELP). Therefore, the Tri-District ESL teachers should exhibit knowledge and be familiar with the WIDA standards in order to build the content of their lesson plans.

The Tri-District ESL teachers will refer to the WIDA Standards and grade level clusters depending on the grade levels they are teaching. The ESL teachers will also connect the content of their lessons to the five WIDA content standards:

- Standard 1: Social and Instructional Language
- Standard 2: The Language of Language Arts
- Standard 3: The Language of Math
- Standard 4: The Language of Science
- Standard 5: The Language of Social Studies

The WIDA Standards will support the Tri-District ESL teachers in the development of ongoing formal and informal assessments.

The WIDA CAN DO Descriptors will provide the Tri-District ESL teachers with a starting point and a baseline to work with ELLs, as well as to help guide content area teachers in their expectations for student performance. Content area teachers should participate in professional development to gain familiarity with the framework of the standards. The CAN DO Descriptors are designed for the entire preK-12 spectrum. They are generalized across grade spans so teachers should be aware of the variability and differences between these spans and adjust their expectations accordingly. (http://www.wida.us/standards/RG\_CAN%20DO%20Descriptors.pdf).

# IV. ESL Methods and Techniques

Using this curriculum guide as a base, the ESL teacher in the role of decision maker, selects the specific method or technique best suited to reach a particular objective. The teacher uses an eclectic approach, drawing upon his or her experience and knowledge of teaching and learning while responding to the English language level of the students and their immediate social and academic needs. ESL teachers are sensitive to the differences between what the students are taught and what the students bring to class, so that lessons and teaching methods are student-centered, based on each student's individual English language needs.

### Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP):

The Tri-District ESL teachers are using the teaching methods inspired by the SIOP Model. SIOP is an instructional framework under which the teacher utilizes effective instructional approaches, such as cooperative learning and differentiated instruction, to support content area instruction and English language learning. SIOP is derived from Sheltered Instruction (SI), which is an approach for teaching grade-level content to English learners in ways that make the subject matter understandable by providing comprehensible input. Teachers scaffold instruction to aid student understanding of content topics and objectives by adjusting their speech and instructional tasks. The SIOP approach enables students to access the necessary academic vocabulary and build background knowledge to meet the objectives of the mainstream class according to their language ability.

The SIOP Model is an effective tool to assist mainstream teachers with teaching ELLs. The key concepts of the SIOP model begin with determining what content area key concepts and vocabulary the ELLs need. Then teachers can begin building background and making the content comprehensible. The SIOP model gives teachers a lesson-planning framework, so that mainstream and ESL teachers are working collaboratively to support ELLs.

### Cooperative Learning:

Throughout the school year, cooperative learning activities give students opportunities to work in groups and share their knowledge. These learning activities are characterized by three components: positive interdependence, individual accountability, and face-to-face interaction. Cooperative learning helps ELLs develop social and oral language skills. It motivates ELLs to learn English, which helps them become an integral part of the class community.

### Differentiated Instruction:

The Tri-District ESL Curriculum strives to implement differentiated instruction in order to meet the WIDA standards. Students must have access to a variety of scaffolded and leveled materials that enable them to learn the same topics being taught in the mainstream classroom. Texts, computer resources and assessments are modified as needed.

### Thematic Approach:

The Tri-District ESL teachers should include topics or themes into their lesson planning that incorporate the WIDA Standards. Topic or theme-related language and concepts may be spiraled over a period of time, ensuring their conceptualization. Students are continually expected to communicate in all four language domains: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Total Physical Response (TPR)

In the Tri-District ESL teachers in the lower grades are encouraged to scaffold or support language through the use of TPR. In order to provide comprehensible input to K-1 students, the ESL teacher gives a command for single action word or phrase such as "jump" or "point to your eye" and then demonstrates the action. This method is effective with entry-level students as it provides direct and visual instruction

# <u>Technology</u>:

Computers can play an integral part in providing ELLs with valuable language experiences as they learn a new language. ESL teachers should offer English language learners a language-rich environment in which students are constantly engaged in language activities. The computer can act as a tool to increase verbal exchanges, develop content area vocabulary and improve reading and writing skills. Students should be exposed to language learning software and websites, which may be utilized at home and in school.

# Reader's Workshop for ELLs:

Reader's Workshop method blends whole group instruction, small needs-based groups, and individual conferring to guide students through the application of the basic reading comprehension strategies. This reading method is especially effective with elementary ELLs.

Teachers of English language learners should be familiar with the Reader's and Writer's workshop methods of teaching that has been utilized in Tri-District elementary schools.

Although setting up a Reader's Workshop classroom in the ESL classroom would not be

feasible, ESL teachers can adapt the strategies used to teach mainstream students to read. These strategies are as follows:

- \* Determining What is Important Identifying themes and diminishing focus on less important ideas or pieces of information
- \* Drawing Inferences Combining background knowledge and textual information to draw conclusions and interpret facts
- \* Using Prior Knowledge Building on previous knowledge and experiences to aid in comprehension of the text
- \* Asking Questions Wondering and inquiring about the book before, during, and after reading
- \* Monitoring Comprehension and Meaning Using an inner voice to think about if the text makes sense or not
- \* Creating Mental Images Implementing the five senses to build images in the mind that enhance the experience of reading

# V. Sample Thematic Units for ELL Learners K-12

The example topics and genres derive from the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards. For more specific criteria, refer to the Formative Framework found for each grade level and content area at: http://www.wida.us/standards/Resource\_Guide\_web.pdf.

### Pre-K - K

Example Topics and Genres: Content Related to WIDA's English Language Proficiency Standards:

# Standard 1: Social and Instructional Language

- Classrooms
- **≻** Colors
- > Feelings
- > Games
- > Hygiene & Safety
- ➤ Music & Movement
- Recreational Objects & Activities
- Routines
- > School
- > Self & Family
- Social Behavior
- Spatial Relations

### Standard 2: The Language of Language Arts

- Chants & Songs
- > Concepts about Print
- > Environmental Print
- > Fairy Tales
- > Forms of Print
- ➤ Make-Believe
- ➤ Nursery Rhymes
- Picture Books

- > Rhyme
- > Same & Different
- ➤ Sounds & Symbols (Phonemic Awareness)
- > Story Elements

# Standard 3: The Language of Mathematics

- > Attributes
- > Equivalency
- ➤ Geometric Shapes
- ➤ Measurement of Time
- ➤ Non-standard Measurement Tools
- ➤ Number Sense
- ➤ Numbers & Operations
- > Patterns
- Quantity
- > Size
- > Spatial Relations
- > Temperature
- ➤ Weight

# Standard 4: The Language of Science

- > Air
- > Animals
- Body Parts
- ➤ Change in Self & Environment
- > Colors
- > Forces in Nature
- ➤ Living and Non-Living Things
- ➤ Night/Day
- > Rocks
- Safety Practices

- > Scientific Process
- > Seasons
- > Senses
- > Water
- > Weather

# Standard 5: The Language of Social Studies

- ➤ Change from Past to Present
- > Classroom/School
- **≻** Clothing
- Community Workers
- > Families
- > Food
- > Friends
- ➤ Historical Stories & Legends
- ➤ Homes in a Community/Habitats
- ➤ Location of Objects & Places
- Neighborhood
- > Seasons
- > Shelter
- ➤ Symbols & Holidays
- > Transportation

# ESL Curriculum Alignment to the WIDA and NJ Core Content Standards

| ESL Theme<br>Based Unit:<br>Grades Pre-K - K | Activity/Performance Indicator(s)   | WIDA<br>Standards  | NJ Language<br>Arts<br>Literacy<br>Standards  |
|--|---|--|---|
| Acculturation                                | <ul> <li>Students will:</li> <li>Learn appropriate survival responses</li> <li>Learn names of objects around him/her</li> <li>Practice finger and songs plays that help explain vocabulary</li> <li>Learn common expressions</li> <li>Identify colors</li> <li>Learn the date using a calendar</li> <li>Learn spatial concept (of directions)</li> <li>Learn to follow simple directions</li> <li>Identify pictures of people in various occupations</li> <li>Learn names of animals</li> <li>Learn names of common foods and associate them with meals of the day</li> <li>Ask questions using the present tense</li> <li>Tell a story with a beginning, middle and end using familiar topics</li> <li>Learn how to use object pronouns</li> <li>Learn the names and amounts of U.S. currency</li> <li>Become aware of holidays around the world celebrated in December and January</li> <li>Read words of objects around them</li> <li>Learn to read; print the alphabet in sequence; write numbers 1-100</li> <li>Learn to write original sentences</li> </ul> | Standards 1 and 2:  -Seeking support and feedback from others  -Participating in popular culture  -Conducting transactions  -Learning and using language chunks  -Practicing new language  -Selecting, connecting and explaining information  -Participating in group discussions  -Comparing and contrasting information  -Representing information  -Representing information visually | Speaking 3.1.1 3.1.2 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.8 3.1.12 3.1.13 3.1.14 Listening 3.2.1 3.2.3 3.2.5 3.2.7 Reading 3.4.2 3.4.7 3.4.8 |

|  | <u>Writing</u>             |
|--|----------------------------|
|  | 3.3.1                      |
|  | 3.3.4                      |
|  | 3.3.6                      |
|  | Viewing and Media Literacy |
|  | 3.5.2                      |
|  | 3.5.6                      |
|  |                            |

### Grades 1-2

Example Topics and Genres: Content Related to WIDA's English Language Proficiency Standards:

# Standard 1: Social and Instructional Language

- Classroom & School Rules
- > Everyday Objects
- ➤ Feelings & Emotions
- > Following Directions
- ➤ Interests, Opinions & Preferences
- ➤ Leisure Activities
- ➤ Likes, Dislikes & Needs
- Personal Correspondence
- > Personal Information
- > School Areas, Personnel, & Activities
- > Sharing/Cooperation

# Standard 2: The Language of Language Arts

### Example Genres:

- ➤ Fiction (Literary Text)
- > Folktales
- ➤ Non-Fiction (Expository Text)
- ➤ Pattern Books/Predictable Books
- Poetry

# **Example Topics:**

- Compound Words
- ➤ Elements of a Story
- > Homophones
- ➤ Phonemic Awareness
- > Phonics
- > Rhyming Words
- ➤ Role Play

- > Sequence of a Story
- > Spatial Relations
- > Story Elements
- > Story Telling
- Word Families

### Standard 3: The Language of Math

- ➤ Basic Operations (Addition & Subtraction)
- > Capacity
- **Estimation**
- > Graphs
- > Interpretation of Data
- > Money
- Number Sense
- > Patterns
- ➤ Place Value
- Quantity
- > Shapes
- > Size
- > Standard & Metric Measurement Tools
- > Symmetry
- > Time (Digital & Analog)
- ➤ Two- and Three- Dimensional Shapes
- > Weight
- ➤ Whole Numbers

# Standard 4: The Language of Science

- **➤** Animals
- > Astronomy
- ➤ Body Parts
- > Change
- ➤ Chemical & Physical Attributes

- Earth & Sky
- > Force & Motion
- Gravity
- ➤ Life Cycles
- ➤ Light
- ➤ Living/Non-Living Things
- > Magnetism
- ➤ Natural Resources
- > Organisms & Environment
- > Plants
- ➤ Renewable & Non-Renewable Resources
- > Senses
- > Sound
- ➤ Water Cycle
- > Weather
- ➤ Weathering & Erosion

# Standard 5: The Language of Social Studies

- > Artifacts of the Past
- ➤ Celebrations/Customs
- Citizenship
- Community Workers
- ➤ Cultural Heritage
- ➤ Families & Responsibilities
- ➤ Historical Figures & Leaders
- ➤ Homes & Habitats
- ➤ Indigenous Peoples & Cultures
- ➤ Jobs & Careers
- ➤ Land Forms/Bodies of Water
- ➤ Money & Banking
- ➤ Neighborhoods & Communities
- ➤ Products in the Marketplace

- > Representations of the earth (maps & globes)
- > Seasons
- > Time & Chronology
- > Uses of Resources & Land

# ESL Curriculum Alignment to the WIDA and NJ Core Content Standards

| ESL Theme Based<br>Unit: Grades 1-2      | Activity/Performance Indicator(s)   | WIDA Standards   | N.J. Language<br>Arts<br>Literacy<br>Standards   |
|--|---|--|--|
| Patterns of Changes in the Natural World | <ul> <li>Students will:</li> <li>Observe and compare sounds to develop discrimination ability</li> <li>Compare methods to amplify sound at the source and at the receiver</li> <li>Visualize the formation and movement of sound waves</li> <li>Design and construct a musical instrument</li> <li>Work effectively in collaborative groups</li> <li>Record information in oral, pictorial, and written forms</li> <li>Organize and communicate findings</li> </ul> | Standards 1, 2, and 4  -Seeking support and feedback from others  -Learning and using language chunks  -Practicing new language  -Selecting, connecting and explaining information  -Representing information visually  -Asking and answering questions  -Participating in group discussions  -Understanding and | Speaking  3.1.1  3.1.2  3.1.4  3.1.5  3.1.8  3.1.13  3.1.14  Listening  3.2.1  3.2.3  3.2.5  Reading  3.4.1  3.4.2 |

| producing technical                          | 3.4.7                            |
|--|----------------------------------|
| vocabulary                                   | 3.4.8                            |
| -Analyzing information                       | 3.4.9                            |
| -Gathering information orally and in writing | 3.4.12                           |
| -Hypothesizing and                           | 3.4.21                           |
| predicting                                   | Writing                          |
|  | 3.3.1                            |
|  | 3.3.4                            |
|  | 3.3.7                            |
|  | 3.3.8                            |
|  |                                  |
|  | Viewing and Media Literacy 3.5.1 |
|  | 3.5.2                            |
|  | 3.5.8                            |
|  | 3.5.10                           |
|  |                                  |

# Grades 3-5

Example Topics and Genres: Content Related to WIDA's English Language Proficiency Standards:

# Standard 1: Social and Instructional Language

- > Assignments
- ➤ Classroom Supplies/Resources
- > Following Directions
- ➤ Health & Safety
- > Information Gathering

- ➤ Leisure Activities
- Opinions
- Personal Experiences
- > Personal Information
- > Rules and Procedure

# Standard 2: The Language of Language Arts

# **Example Genres**

- ➤ Biographies & Autobiographies
- > Fables
- > Fairy Tales
- > Fantasies
- > Folklore
- > Informational Texts
- > Legends
- Mysteries
- > Myths
- Narratives
- > Prose
- Science Fiction
- ➤ Tall Tales

# **Example Topics**

- > Affixes & Root Words
- ➤ Comprehension Strategies
- ➤ Conventions & Mechanics
- ➤ Editing & Revising
- > Explicit & Inferential Information
- > Fact or Opinion
- > Fluency Strategies
- > Hyperbole
- ➤ Main Ideas/Details
- Organization of Texts

- ➤ Phonemes/Phonology
- ➤ Points of View
- > Story Elements & Types of Genres
- > Story Grammar
- ➤ Text Structure & Organization

# Standard 3: The Language of Mathematics

- ➤ Angles
- > Area
- ➤ Attributes of Two- and Three Dimensional Shapes
- ➤ Basic Operations (Multiplication & Division)
- Cost/Money
- Data Analysis
- Decimals
- Descriptive Statistics
- > Fractions
- ➤ Large Whole Numbers
- ➤ Metric System
- ➤ Patterns & Relationships
- > Percent
- Perimeter
- ➤ Place Value
- **Polygons**
- > Scale
- > Sets
- Strategies for Problem Solving

# Standard 4: The Language of Science

- ➤ Body Systems
- > Cells & Organisms
- > Earth History/Materials
- ➤ Ecology & Conservation
- > Ecosystems

- > Electricity
- > Energy Sources
- > Foods & Nutrition
- > Forces of Nature
- > Fossils
- Geological Forms
- ➤ Heat
- Living Systems
- > Magnetism
- ➤ Natural Resources
- > Nature
- > Reproduction & Heredity
- Scientific Inquiry
- ➤ Simple Machines
- > Solar System
- > States of Matter
- > Weather Patterns

# Standard 5: The Language of Social Studies

- > Ancient Civilizations
- > Branches of Government
- **▶** Colonization
- Communities
- > Cross-Cultural Experiences
- > Explorers
- ➤ Goods & Services
- ➤ Historical Events, Figures, & Leaders
- > Immigration/Migration
- ➤ Legends & Scales
- ➤ Maps & Globes/Locations
- ➤ Needs of Groups, Societies & Cultures
- ➤ Neighbors North & South

- Prehistoric Animals
- Resources & Products
- > Times Long Ago
- > Tools & Artifacts
- > Topography: Rivers, Coasts, Mountains, Deserts, Plains
- > Trade Routes
- > U.S. Documents
- U.S. Regions

# ESL Curriculum Alignment to the WIDA and NJ Core Content Standards

| ESL Theme<br>Based Unit:<br>Grades 3-5  | Activity/Performance Indicator(s)  | WIDA Standards  | NJ Language<br>Arts<br>Literacy<br>Standards   |
|---|--|---|--|
| Acculturation  Literature  Examples:  Pa Lia's First Day  I Hate English  Angel Child  Dragon Child | Students will:  Review vocabulary for feelings Brainstorm how they felt on the first day of school or first day in school in the United States Discuss feeling "along" or out of place Read first two chapters of Pa Lia Predict what will happen next after key points in story Make a chart about Pa Lia's feelings during different parts of the story Discuss how they feel when someone calls them a name Identify figurative language in the story and decide what it means Sequence story action Identify elements of the story Draw a picture and write about a time when they felt like their stomachs were filled with 1,000 fluttering butterflies Share their stories with the group Become aware of holidays and seasonal festivals celebrated around the world | Standards 1 and 2  -Describing, reading about, or participating in favorite activity  -Participating in popular culture  -Sharing social and cultural traditions and values  -Seeking support and feedback from others  -Develop listening strategies to understand what is heard  -Testing hypothesis about language  -Explaining actions  -Selecting, connecting and explaining information | Speaking  3.1.1  3.1.2  3.1.4  3.1.6  3.1.8  3.1.12  Listening  3.2.1  3.2.3  3.2.5  3.2.6  Reading  3.4.2  3.4.4  3.4.8  3.4.13  3.4.15 |

| information visually                 | 3.4.21                        |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| -Elaborating and                     | Writing                       |
| extending other peop ideas and words | 3.3.1                         |
|                                      | 3.3.2                         |
|                                      | 3.3.3                         |
|                                      | 3.3.4                         |
|                                      | Viewing and<br>Media Literacy |
|                                      | 3.5.2                         |
|                                      | 3.5.6                         |
|                                      | 3.5.1                         |

### Grades 6-8

Example Topics and Genres: Content Related to WIDA's English Language Proficiency Standards:

# Standard 1: Social and Instructional Language

- ➤ Assignments/Research
- > Character Development
- > Instructions/Assignments
- > Resources & Supplies
- > School Behavior
- > School Life
- > Social Interaction
- ➤ Use of Information
- ➤ Use of Multiple Resources
- ➤ Use of Register

# Standard 2: The Language of Language Arts

# **Example Genres**

- Adventures
- **▶** Ballads
- **Editorials**
- ➤ Historical Documents
- > Human Interest
- Mythology
- ➤ Poetry/Free Verse
- Science Fiction
- > Technical Texts

### **Example Topics**

- > Alliteration
- ➤ Author's Purpose
- Biographies
- ➤ Comprehension Strategies

- > Dialogue
- **➤** Editing
- > Figures of Speech
- ➤ Literacy Devices
- ➤ Metaphors & Similes
- ➤ Multimedia
- > Multiple Meanings
- > Personification
- > Synonyms & Antonyms
- > Test-Taking Strategies
- **➤** Word Origins

# Standard 3: The Language of Mathematics

- ➤ Algebraic Equations
- > Area, Volume & Circumference
- ➤ Complex 2- & 3-Dimensional Figures
- ➤ Data Interpretation & Statistics
- Data Sets & Plots
- Decimals
- > Estimation
- > Factors
- > Fractions
- ➤ Geometric Relations
- > Integers
- ➤ Line Segments & Angles
- Measures of Central Tendency (Mean, Median, Mode, Range)
- ➤ Metric & Standard Units of Measurement
- Parallel Lines
- > Percent
- > Perimeter
- > Probability
- ➤ Ratio & Proportion

# > Square Root

# Standard 4: The Language of Science

- > Atoms & Molecules
- > Bacteria to Plants
- Body Systems & Organs
- ➤ Chemical Building Blocks
- ➤ Climate/Temperature Change
- Climate Zones
- ➤ Comets & Meteorites
- > Cycles
- ➤ Elements & Compounds
- > Forms of Energy
- > Light
- ➤ Motion & Force
- ➤ Natural Disasters
- ➤ Populations, Resources & Environments
- Processes
- > Reproduction
- > Scientific Inventions or Discoveries
- > Scientific Tools or Instruments
- ➤ Solar System
- > Sound
- ➤ Universe: Stars and Planets
- > Water

# Standard 5: The Language of Social Studies

- > Agriculture
- ➤ America's Story
- ➤ Ancient/Medieval Civilizations
- ➤ Bill of Rights
- Civic Rights & Responsibilities
- Civil Wars

- Colonization
- Countries & Continents
- > Cultural Perspectives & Frames of Reference
- > Economic Trends
- > Forms & Organization of Government
- > Freedom & Democracy
- > Human Resources
- ➤ Longitude/Latitude/Time Zones
- > Maps
- > Revolution
- > Slavery
- > U.S. Constitution

| ESL Theme<br>Based Unit:<br>Grade 6                                       | Activity/Performance Indicator(s)   | WIDA Standards  | N.J. Language<br>Arts<br>Literacy<br>Standards   |
|---|---|---|--|
| The First Thanksgiving: The voyage of the Mayflower; Life in the colonies | Students will:  Review what their own voyage to the United States was like (if applicable)  Hear an oral background on the Pilgrims and why they left England  Brainstorm a list of objects they think the Pilgrims would need to bring to the New World  Read books on Pilgrims, the voyage of the Mayflower, the hardships of the first year, and life in the Pilgrim colony  Construct a T-chart to compare Pilgrims' trip to America and their own trip  Read a simplified version of the Mayflower Compact  Construct an ESL Compact for the classroom in cooperative groups  Practice new vocabulary to describe a Pilgrim life in Plymouth  Compare schools in early Plymouth with schools in the 21st century | Standards 1, 2, and 5  -Seeking support and feedback from others  -Learning and using language chunks  -Practicing new language  -Conducting transactions  -Participating in popular culture  -Selecting, connecting and explaining information  -Representing information visually  -Participating in group discussions  -Elaborating and extending other people's ideas and words  -Formulating and asking questions  -Reading and using materials from content | Speaking  3.1.1  3.1.2  3.1.4  3.1.7  3.1.8  3.1.13  3.1.14  Listening  3.2.1  3.2.3  3.2.5  3.2.6  3.2.7  Reading  3.4.1  3.4.2  3.4.4  3.4.8 |

|  | area sources | 3.4.16                     |
|--|--------------|----------------------------|
|  |              | Writing                    |
|  |              | 3.3.1                      |
|  |              | 3.3.4                      |
|  |              | 3.3.12                     |
|  |              | Viewing and Media Literacy |
|  |              | 3.5.2                      |
|  |              | 3.5.6                      |
|  |              | 3.5.10                     |
|  |              |                            |

# ESL Curriculum Alignment to WIDA and NJ Core Content Standards

| ESL Theme<br>Based Unit:<br>Grades 6-8  | Activity/Performance Indicator(s)  | WIDA Standards   | NJ Language<br>Arts<br>Literacy<br>Standards  |
|---|--|--|---|
| <u>United States</u>  | Students will:   | Standards 1, 2, and 5  | Speaking  |
| Citizenship  Examples:  Pledge of Allegiance U.S. Flag Star Spangled Banner Symbols | <ul> <li>Draw a picture of the flag from their native countries and describe it to the group</li> <li>Locate their countries on a map</li> <li>Hear the national anthem from their country on the internet</li> <li>Recognize symbols such as the seal of their country</li> <li>Review vocabulary for the Pledge of Allegiance; demonstrate understanding of correct behavior during the Pledge</li> <li>Recognize and demonstrate respect for the U.S. flag; brainstorm where they have seen U.S. flags displayed</li> <li>Listen to Star Spangled Banner; recognize music and demonstrate correct behavior when it is heard</li> <li>Explain what types of events they have attended where the Pledge is recited</li> <li>Demonstrate understanding of U.S. President, Vice-President, local and state government</li> <li>Identify local and state government officials' names on the Internet</li> <li>Recognize various symbols of the U.S. such as the seal, Uncle Sam, the Bald Eagle, etc.</li> </ul> | -Describing, reading about or participating in a favorite activity  -Participating in popular culture  -Sharing social and cultural traditions and values  -Seeking support and feedback from others  -Expressing needs, feelings and ideas  -Comparing verbal and nonverbal cues  -Self-monitoring and self-evaluating language development  -Learning and using language "chunks"  -Using context to get meaning | 3.1.1 3.1.2 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.6 3.1.8 3.1.13 Listening 3.2.1 3.2.3 3.2.5 3.2.6 3.2.9 Viewing and Media Literacy 3.5.1 3.5.2 3.5.4 |

|  | 3.5.12 |
|--|--------|
|  | 3.5.15 |
|  |        |
|  |        |
|  |        |

### Grades 9-12

Example Topics and Genres: Content Related to WIDA's English Language Proficiency Standards:

# Standard 1: Social and Instructional Language

- Classroom Routines
- > Personal & Business Communication
- Personal Preferences
- ➤ Points of View
- > Recommendations/Suggestions
- School Life
- ➤ Social & Cultural Traditions & Values
- Study Skills and Strategies
- ➤ Information Gathering
- ➤ Workplace Readiness

# Standard 2: The Language of Language Arts

# **Example Genres**

- > Allusion
- ➤ Autobiographical & Biographical Narratives
- Comedies
- Critical Commentary
- > Epics
- ➤ Literary Genres
- ➤ Monologues/Soliloquy
- ➤ Multicultural/World Literature
- > Tragedies

### **Example Topics**

- Analogies
- ➤ Author's Perspective/Point of View
- ➤ Bias
- ➤ Character Development
- ➤ Convention & Mechanics

- ➤ Literal & Figurative Language
- Multiple Meanings
- ➤ Note Taking
- > Parody
- > Research
- > Satire
- > Symbolism
- Word Derivations (Etymology)

# Standard 3: The Language of Mathematics

- > Congruence
- ➤ Coordinate Planes, Graphs, & Equations
- > Data Displays & Interpretation
- Derived Attributes
- > Formulas & Equations
- ➤ Mathematical Relations & Functions
- ➤ Multi-Dimensional Shapes
- > Powers
- ➤ Problem Solving
- Quadrilaterals
- ➤ Roots
- Scale & Proportion
- > Speed & Acceleration
- > Theoretic Probability
- ➤ Trigonometric Functions (Sine, Cosine, Tangent)

### Standard 4: The Language of Science

- ➤ Atoms & Molecules/Nuclear Structures
- ➤ Chemical & Physical Change
- Conservation of Energy & Matter
- Constellations
- ➤ Ecology & Adaptation
- ➤ Elements & Compounds

- ➤ Food Chains
- > Forces & Motion
- ➤ Genetics & Heredity
- ➤ Life Cycles
- Meteorology
- Nuclear Change
- ➤ Scientific Research & Investigation
- Simple Organisms
- > Taxonomic Systems

# Standard 5: The Language of Social Studies

- Banking and Money
- ➤ Behaviors of Individuals & Groups
- ➤ Conflict Resolution
- Cultural Diversity & Cohesion
- > Federal, Civil & Individual Rights
- ➤ Global Economy
- ➤ Historical Figures & Times
- **➤** Human Populations
- ➤ Individual Responsibilities
- ➤ Interdependence among States & Unions
- ➤ International & Multinational Organizations
- Production, Consumption & Distribution
- ➤ Social Issues & Inequities
- Supply & Demand
- ➤ Supreme Court Cases
- > Survey Research
- > The Story of the U.S.
- ➤ World Histories/Civilizations/Cultures

# ESL Curriculum Alignment to WIDA and NJ Core Content Standards

| ESL Theme<br>Based Unit:<br>Grades 9-12 | Activity/Performance Indicator(s)  | WIDA Standards  | NJ Language<br>Arts<br>Literacy<br>Standards  |
|---|--|---|---|
| Civics                                  | <ul> <li>Students will:</li> <li>Identify important information in an informative textbook</li> <li>Take notes on key symbols, words or phrases from textbook</li> <li>Read from the textbook and list key phrases</li> <li>Produce outlines from discussions, readings and notes</li> <li>Write with full sentences</li> <li>Summarize readings</li> <li>Label significant individuals or historical times relating to federal, civil or individual rights</li> <li>Watch clips of Biography's Martin Luther King Jr.</li> <li>Give examples of federal, civil, or individual rights in the U.S. using visuals and labels</li> <li>Give examples of federal, civil, or individual rights in native country using visual and labels</li> <li>Present information about a significant individual or historical time in the native country relating to federal, civil or individual rights</li> <li>Write an essay comparing federal, civil or individual rights in the U.S to the native country</li> </ul> | Standards 1, 2, and 5  - Describe federal, civil or individual rights in the native country  -Identifying and sharing different points of view  -Sharing social and cultural traditions and values  -Seeking support and feedback from others  -Expressing needs, feelings and ideas  -Practice study skills and strategies  -Self-monitoring and self-evaluating language development  -Gathering information  -Reading autobiographical and biographical narratives  -Reading multicultural | 3.1.1 3.1.2 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.6 3.1.8 3.1.13 Listening 3.2.1 3.2.3 3.2.5 3.2.6 3.2.9 Viewing and Media Literacy 3.5.1 3.5.2 3.5.4 |

|  | and world literature                  | 3.5.12 |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------|
|  | -Practice note taking                 | 3.5.15 |
|  | -Conflict resolution                  |        |
|  | -Cultural diversity                   |        |
|  | -Federal, civil and individual rights |        |
|  | -Historical figures and times         |        |
|  | -Individual responsibilities          |        |
|  | -The story of the U.S.                |        |
|  |                                       |        |
|  |                                       |        |
|  |                                       |        |

## VI. The Instructional Setting

It is the belief of the Tri-District ESL teachers that physical teaching environment greatly impacts student progress. ESL teachers need their own room because a single class may be comprised of students of diverse English language ability and various grade spans. In order to effectively teach across grade and ability levels, a variety of leveled resources need to be on hand. An appropriate physical environment enables the teacher to enhance instruction by meeting the students' individual learning needs.

The Tri-District ESL program is a high-intensity pull-out program K-12. On the elementary level, the ESL teacher works with the students on both a push-in or pull-out basis. The ESL class takes place during its own class period. Students are offered more than one ESL period per day, and newcomers have the option of taking ESL four periods per day. Classes are grouped by student ability and the average class size is eight students. Lessons are derived from the WIDA standards, content-area material, and the students' area of greatest language acquisition needs.

Tri-District ESL teachers work with classroom teachers to extend the instruction of ELLs in the mainstream setting. This includes one push-in period daily, which allows the ESL teacher to visit classrooms grades 7-12, and work with the ESL students on the content and the teachers on modifications.

# VII. Professional Development

It is essential for the Tri-District ESL teachers to receive ongoing professional development in order to meet the needs of their ELLs and fulfill new state mandates. The ESL teachers need to attend New Jersey State Training Programs and professional conferences offered by the organizations in their field, such as NJTESOL.

It is also important to train mainstream classroom teachers on the basic second language acquisition theories, stages of second language acquisition and the different cultures of the students and how they influence or affect their performance. Training classroom teachers in these areas will provide ELLs with the very basic language supports necessary for them to succeed in the mainstream classroom.

The ESL and content area teachers should endeavor to collaborate and develop strategies that will result in the success of the ELLs. This collaboration should be ongoing and opportunities for additional collaboration should take place in professional workshops.

#### **VIII.** Parent Involvement

Involving parents of English language learners is not only mandated by the state but is an integral part of a successful Intensive English ESL program. The ESL teacher should serve as a resource for classroom teachers and administrators since they are the professionals with training in multicultural awareness. ESL parents should be valued as an important addition to the cultural heritage of the school.

ESL parent meetings should be held in order to discuss the goals of the ESL program, the school's culture and the expectations of the ESL and content area teachers. These meetings may be held during Back-to-School Night, middle school team meetings, or during an individual parent-teacher conference with the student's guidance counselor and teachers. Communication between home and school should be meaningful and accessible to all parents. Parent volunteers of different language backgrounds should be invited to collaborate in these meetings in order to help those parents with little or no English. Translations of important school information should be offered when possible.

The ESL teachers should endeavor to provide resources and information that will help parents understand how their children can improve their skill and meet class expectations. The parents of our linguistically and culturally diverse students can be invited to visit the ESL classroom so they can see and understand what is involved in developing their children's English language and academic skills.

The Tri-District will have a Bilingual/ESL Parent Advisory Committee, where each marking period, the ESL parents will be invited to the school for a parent/teacher meeting. The ESL teachers will be in attendance to share information about the ESL program, the school and to answer questions. The objectives or goals of committee are to open communication between the school and ESL parent population.

Parents of ESL students shall receive the following correspondence over the school year. This correspondence will be translated into home languages when possible. Copies of parent correspondence will be kept in the students' ESL file.

• <u>Eligibility Letter</u>: An entry letter will be sent to parents of students who are eligible and enrolled in ESL class.

- <u>Continuation Letter</u>: This letter will be mailed to parents to advise that their child will be continuing in the ESL program.
- Exit Letter: This letter will be mailed to parents when a student meets the criteria to exit ESL. Students will need this letter in order to deregister from ESL and enroll in another class. If an exit letter is not sent by the district, parents may write a letter declining services, which will deregister their child from ESL.
- <u>ACCESS Test Letter</u>: This letter will inform parents of their child's state-mandated ACCESS for ELLs test results. A parent copy of the test scores will also be enclosed.
- ESL/Bilingual Parent and Teacher Advisory Meeting: This letter will inform parents of the meeting dates. The meeting will open communication between the school and ESL/Bilingual parents.

# IX. Entry Criteria for the ESL Program

Eligibility for ESL should be decided by the Tri-District ESL teachers. Eligibility for ESL is based on the following measures:

- ACCESS for ELLs test results from the previous school year
- MAC II Language Proficiency test
- Gates MacGinitie reading test
- Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Content area teacher recommendation
- Participation in an ESL program in another school district
- NJ ASK or HSPA test results
- Arrival to the United States from a country where English is not the first language

## X. Exit Criteria for the ESL Program

Exit from ESL is decided through multiple criteria, including ESL and classroom teacher recommendation, report card grades, NJ ASK or HSPA test results, the MAC II Proficiency Test, the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test, and the ACCESS for ELLs score reports. Students do not exit unless they take the Tier C ACCESS test.

The MAC II Proficiency Test is administered at the end of the school year to measure students' overall proficiency gain throughout the school year. The test provides an assessment of students' English reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. A student must meet the state's standards (Level 5) in order to be considered for exit.

The Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test is also administered at least twice during the course of the school year. It is expected that a student being considered for exit will achieve a reading comprehension score that is on or above grade level. Once this reading level is achieved, students will have more success working independently in the mainstream classroom.

A student's writing portfolio is assessed before that student may exit ESL. Using the NJ writing rubric as a guide, the student should demonstrate writing skills that are at or near the level necessary to pass the NJ ASK or HSPA exam. Writing should show progression throughout the school year and should be comparable to mainstream students within that grade level.

Finally, a student's GPA and performance in content area courses are evaluated by the subject teacher and the ESL teacher to determine whether that student has been successful in that area. Scores should reflect the student successfully completing all mainstream work without modifications. The student should be able to work independently on mainstream work without ESL support.

Using the above criteria and upon receipt of the ACCESS for ELLs test results, ESL students are evaluated to determine whether they will continue with the program. Once exited, students are monitored by classroom teachers and the ESL teacher to establish if reentry to the program is beneficial.

# **XI.** ESL Concepts and Strategies for Content Area Teachers

(Excerpted from Getting Started with English Language Learners by Judie Haynes, ASCD, 2007)

## The Silent Period:

Most new learners of English will go through a "silent period", which is a period of time during which they are unable or unwilling to communicate orally in the new language. This stage may last for a few days or more than a year depending on a variety of factors. The silent period occurs before ELLs are ready to produce oral language and is generally referred to as the "preproduction" stage of language learning. ELLs should not be forced to speak before they are ready. The goal is to not embarrass them by putting them on the spot. They need time to listen to others talk, to digest what they hear, to develop receptive vocabulary, and to observe their classmates' interactions. This does not mean the student is not learning. They may understand what is being said, but they are not yet ready to talk about it.

Teacher instruction is an important factor in the length of the silent period. If the teacher provides "hands-on" activities and has students interact in small groups, ELLs will be able to participate in the life of the classroom a lot sooner. They will feel more confident in risking oral language. It should not be assumed that learners of English do not feel embarrassment or shyness when attempting to speak in a second language.

### **Culture Shock:**

Newcomers who act out in the classroom are probably suffering from culture shock. This is a term used to describe the feelings people have when they move to an unfamiliar culture. How does this term apply to immigrant children? They may become withdrawn and passive or they may be more aggressive; the greater the differences between the new culture and the students' primary culture, the greater the shock. Newcomers have left behind family members, friends, teachers, and pets. They are no longer surrounded by a familiar language and culture. Often they do not have the support of their parents who are also experiencing culture shock. Teachers must realize that every child reacts differently to moving to a new place. New arrivals go through five stages of culture shock, listed below:

1. Euphoric or Honeymoon Stage. During this stage newcomers are excited about their new lives. Everything is wonderful and they enjoy learning about their environment.

- 2. Rejection Stage. At this stage, the differences between the new culture and the old one become more apparent to newcomers. They reject their new surroundings because there is so much they do not understand. They feel overwhelmed and may seem sleepy, irritable, disinterested or depressed. Some students may become aggressive and act out their frustrations. Students at the Rejection Stage may refuse to learn the new language.
- 3. Regression Stage. Students are frustrated because they cannot communicate and are bombarded with unfamiliar surroundings, unreadable social signals and an unrelenting barrage of new sounds. They are homesick and miss their family, friends and familiar sights and sounds. They spend time listening to music and watching videos or television from their home country. Older students may idealize their home countries. Teenaged newcomers often feel angry and helpless because they have had no say in their families' move to the U.S. They have lost control over their environment because they don't speak English. Newcomers in this stage of culture shock need time and patience from their teachers.
- 4. Integration Stage. At this stage, newcomers start to deal with the differences between the old culture and new. They learn to integrate their own beliefs with those of the new culture. Some of them will start to replace the old values with new ones. Others will begin to find ways to exist within both cultures. Many immigrant parents become alarmed at this stage, because they do not want their children to lose their primary language and culture.
- 5. Acceptance. Newcomers are now able to enter and prosper in the mainstream culture. They accept both cultures and combine them into their lives. Some students will adopt the mainstream culture at school and follow the values of the home culture outside of school. During this stage many immigrant parents make it clear to their children that they do not want them to abandon their primary language and culture.

# **Comprehensible Input:**

Language is not "soaked up." The learner must understand the communication that is conveyed by classmates and teachers. English language learners acquire language by hearing and understanding messages that are slightly above their current English language level. For example, an English language learner may understand the message "Put your book in your desk." By slightly changing the message to "Put your book on the table," the speaker scaffolds new information that increases the learner's language comprehension. In order to do this, the teacher must provide new material that builds off the learner's prior knowledge. When

newcomers are assigned to a mainstream classroom and spend most of their day in this environment it is especially critical for them to receive comprehensible input from their teachers and classmates. When teachers employ a lecture style of instruction, the English language learner will not receive much input.

### Comprehensible Output:

According to research, learners need opportunities to practice language at their level of competency. This practice with English-speaking peers is called Comprehensible Output. Many researchers feel that comprehensible output is nearly as important as input. Cooperative learning groups are one way for new learners of English to receive plenty of understandable input and output. A small group setting allows for more comprehensible input because classmates modify or adapt the message to the listener's needs. There is more opportunity for oral practice and for repetition of content information as peers help new learners of English negotiate meaning. Students speak within a small group, focusing on what is actually happening at the moment as the task is completed. Feedback and correction are non-judgmental and immediate.

# Language Acquisition and Language Learning:

There is an important distinction made by linguists between language acquisition and language learning. Children acquire language through a subconscious process during which they are unaware of grammatical rules. This is similar to the way they acquire their first language. They get a feel for what is and what isn't correct. In order to acquire language, the learner needs a source of natural communication. Teachers emphasize the text of the communication, not the form. Young students who are in the process of acquiring English get plenty of "on the job" practice. They can easily communicate with classmates

Language learning, on the other hand, is not communicative. It is the result of direct instruction in the rules of language. Learners have conscious knowledge of the new language and can talk about that knowledge. Students who have learned about the language are not necessarily able to produce, speak and write, it correctly. A language learner can fill in the blanks on a grammar page. Research has shown, however, that knowing grammar rules does not necessarily result in good speaking or writing. A student who has memorized the rules of the language may be able to succeed on a standardized test of English language but may not speak or write correctly.

#### The Affective Filter:

Although comprehensible input is necessary to language acquisition, it is not sufficient in and by itself. The emotional state of the learner can interfere with the acquisition of a new language because it involves public practice and speaking in front of others. This requires that the learner take a risk. This risk can produce anxiety and embarrassment that can block the learner's ability to process new information. Classroom teachers who create an effective learning environment for ELLs set a classroom atmosphere that promotes the rapid integration of newly arrived students into the life of the school. They provide a milieu that is non-threatening and demonstrate a good understanding of the needs of their newcomers. The key is to make ELLs feel welcome and comfortable in the classroom so that their affective filter does not impede learning. Social Language:

Social language is the language of the playground. Researcher Jim Cummins (Cummins, 1981, 1996) calls this language BICS (Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills). This is the oral communication that newcomers learn in order to function socially in the hallway, classroom, on the school bus and playground. Research by Cummins shows it takes 1-3 years for English language learners to reach the social language level of their peers.

The context of social language is embedded. For example, if a student wants a drink of water, he or she can ask by making a drinking motion and saying the word "water." Newcomers have support for this language because they can use gestures, objects and pictures to help make the information comprehensible.

As mentioned previously, social interactions are usually context embedded. They occur in a meaningful social context. They are not very demanding cognitively. As newcomers' listening and oral language skills start to develop, they will be able to add more difficult activities to their repertoire. The context for these interactions will be reduced.

#### **Understanding Academic Language:**

Teachers and administrators often decide to move students who have social communication skills (BICS) out of language support services because they *sound* like everybody else in the class. It is crucial for all educators to understand the difference between BICS and CALP (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency). If students speak English well in social situations, this does not mean that they are ready for the academic tasks of the classroom.

CALP refers to the language of formal academic learning. It is the language of written texts in content areas such as math, science, social studies and English literature. CALP includes reading, writing and thinking about subject area content material. It includes skills such as comparing, classifying, synthesizing, evaluating, and inferring. ESL students struggle to comprehend what they read and have difficulty expressing what they know in writing. It is essential, however, for students to develop academic language if they are to succeed in school.

Academic language proficiency is not just the rote learning of academic facts. In fact, many students can say all of the words in a reading passage and memorize the definitions of vocabulary words but still not comprehend the text. Academic language includes the development of cognitive abilities. Students may need to learn new concepts at the same time as they learn new language.

Cognitive academic language skills are abstract and context reduced. Information is read from a textbook or presented by the teacher with few verbal cues to give clues to meaning. As students get older, the teacher is more and more likely to present material through a lecture in front of the room.

The content also becomes more cognitively demanding. Vocabulary is more specific to each subject area. New ideas and concepts are presented to the students at the same time as the context-reduced language. Textbooks are written way beyond the language level of an English language learner. On top of that, ELLs may well have limited background knowledge for subjects such as history and language arts.

#### Primary Language in the Home:

School administrators and classroom teachers should encourage parents to speak their primary language at home. It is much more beneficial for children to hear a fluent native language with a rich vocabulary than it is to hear imperfect, halting English. Another concept that is generally accepted in the field of second language acquisition is Cummins' Common Underlying Proficiency (CUP) theory. This model shows the relationship between native language and second language. According to Cummins, "Concepts are most readily developed in the first language and, once developed, are accessible through the second language. In other words, what we learn in one language transfers into the new language."

Students, who are literate in native language, even if the writing system is different, have many resources to draw on when learning academic English. Factors that are part of proficiency

in any language form an underlying core of factors or skills that can be used in any other language. In reading for example, 10th graders who are literate in Korean will understand the underlying process of reading. Older students will already be able to use skills learned in first language such as scanning, selecting important information, predicting what comes next, visualization to enhance comprehension. This process does not need to be relearned in English because many reading skills will transfer from one language to the next. Young children who are literate in one language will know that print carries meaning and that this print is divided into words and sentences. They will also realize that letters stand for sounds. It is much more difficult to teach a concept, if that concept does not exist in the student's native language.

# How long does it take to learn English?

How long does it take to learn English? How long should students receive English language support? These are the most frequently asked questions by administrators, school board members and classroom teachers. There are many factors that influence second language acquisition, such as age and personality on language development. Students' education background in their native language and the type of program also helps to determine how long it takes to learn English.

The most comprehensive work done in this field is the research conducted by Wayne Thomas and Virginia Collier. Thomas & Collier studied the language acquisition of 700,000 English language learners in a longitudinal study from 1982 to 1996. They wanted to find out how long it took students with no background in English to reach native speaker performance (50th percentile) on norm-referenced tests. In addition, they looked at variables such as socioeconomic status, first language, programs used to learn English, and number of years of primary language schooling.

In their study, Thomas/Collier found that the most significant variable in how long it takes to learn English is the amount of formal schooling students have received in their first language. Those students who were between 8-11 years old and had 2-3 years of native language education took 5-7 years to test at grade level in English. Students with little or no formal schooling, who arrived before the age of eight, took 7-10 years to reach grade level norms in English language literacy. Students who were below grade level in native language literacy also took 7-10 years to reach the 50th percentile. Many of these students never reached grade level norms. This data holds true regardless of the home language, country of origin, and socioeconomic status. (Thomas & Collier, 1997).

Researchers found that English language learners who received all of their schooling in English did extremely well in kindergarten through third grade. The gains these students made in English were dramatic. From fourth grade on through middle and high school, when the academic demands of the curriculum become more rigorous, the performance of these students fell substantially below the 50th percentile.

Why did this happen? Native English speakers make an average gain of ten months each school year. However, English language learners only made a 6-8 month gain per school year. The gap between native-English and second language speakers widened from the 4th grade through high school. In the Thomas/Collier study the native language students spoke had no influence on these results. Students speaking Spanish made the same progress as those from an Asian background.

# **XII.** Glossary of Terms

ACCESS for ELLs: a standards-based, criterion referenced English language proficiency test designed to measure English language learners' social and academic proficiency in English Accommodation: modifying spoken or written language to make it comprehensible to second language learners

<u>Adapted</u>: modified for English language learners. This usually refers to materials that have simplified language but concepts are not watered down.

Affective filter: an imaginary wall that a language learner puts up that impedes language acquisition. A learner must be receptive to language input. When anxiety is high, the wall is high and input is screened out.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP): a measure of progress toward the goal of 100 percent of students achieving to state academic standards in at least English and math. It sets the minimum level of proficiency that the state, its school districts, and schools must achieve each year on annual tests and related academic indicators.

<u>Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS)</u>: the language ability required for verbal face-to-face social communication

Bilingual: able to communicate in two languages

<u>Bilingual</u> Education: an instructional program that uses more than one language as the vehicle for instruction

<u>Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP)</u>: the academic language of the content classroom that takes from four to ten years for ELLs to acquire

<u>CAN DO Descriptors</u>: general performance indicators that describe typical behaviors of ELLs in each language domain at each level of English language proficiency

<u>Comprehensible Input</u>: According to Stephen Krashen, this is communication that is just above the learners' level of English ability. ELLs learn best when they can understand the input but are challenged.

<u>Content-Based ESL Instruction</u>: an approach to second language teaching that utilizes contentarea subject matter to teach language. Concepts are not watered down, but the language of the subject area is simplified.

<u>Cooperative Learning</u>: when students from varied backgrounds and abilities work together in small groups

<u>Culture Shock</u>: the feelings people have when they move to an unfamiliar culture

<u>Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students</u>: Refers to students who come from a language and cultural background other than that of the mainstream population

<u>English Language Learners (ELLs)</u>: limited English proficient students, usually those in an ESL or bilingual program

<u>English language proficiency standards (ELPs)</u>: criteria that express the language expectation of ELLs at the end of their English language acquisition across the language domains

<u>English as a Second Language (ESL)</u>: the name of a program to teach English in the English language to non-English speakers

Heritage/Home/Primary Language: the student's native language

<u>Language domains</u>: the four main subdivisions of language: listening, speaking, reading and writing

<u>Language Acquisition</u>: learning a language through meaningful conversation that is similar to the way children learn their first language. Language is learned with no formal study of forms and grammar.

<u>Language Experience Approach (LEA)</u>: an approach to reading instruction based on information and stories developed from the personal experiences of the students. The stories are written down by the teacher and read together until the student associates the written form of English with the spoken form.

<u>Limited English Proficient (LEP)</u>: describe students whose English language skills are limited. Although this term is used in most legal documents such as administrative code and law, it is considered pejorative by educators in the field of second language acquisition.

<u>Non-verbal communication</u>: physical communication such as gestures, facial expressions, and physical proximity that support oral communication

<u>Primary/Native Language</u>: a student's first language and the language normally used in the home

<u>Realia</u>: physical items that are used in teaching English.

<u>Sheltered Instruction</u>: is a program where teachers simplify the language of instruction to teach content area subjects such as social studies or science. This makes the content accessible to ELLs.

Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP): a research-based sheltered instruction model used to describe instructional practices that help teachers make content accessible to ELLs.

Content information and language instruction is scaffolded to provide support to ELLs.

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL): is the international professional organization for those concerned with the teaching of English as a second or foreign language and of Standard English as a second dialect

<u>Total Physical Response (TPR)</u>: is a teaching technique devised by James Asher where the learners respond to language with gestures and body motions. "Simon Says" is an example of TPR for beginning language learners.

<u>World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA)</u>: English language proficiency (ELP) standards designed as a curriculum planning and assessment preparation tool. They help educators determine children's English language proficiency levels and how to appropriately challenge them in reaching higher levels.

# XIII. Bibliography

Cary, S., Working with Second Language Learners: Answers to Teachers' Top Ten Questions. (2000) Heinemann. Portsmouth, NH.

Center for Applied Linguistics (1999). *Criteria for Success in Two-Way Bilingual Education*. Online at http://www.cal.org/twi/2waycrit.htm.

Center for Research on Education, Diversity and Excellence (CREDE) http://www.cal.org/crede/si.htm.

Collier, V.P. (1995). Promoting academic success for ESL students: Understanding second language acquisition for school. Elizabeth, NJ: New Jersey Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages-Bilingual Educators.

Cummins, Jim. (2000). *Language, power, and pedagogy: Bilingual children in the crossfire*. Buffalo, NY: Multilingual Matters Ltd.

Echevarria, J., Vogt, M., and Short, D. J., *Making Content Comprehensible for English Learners: The SIOP Model*. (Second Edition 2004) Allyn & Bacon, Boston, MA.

Echevarria, J. & Graves, A., Sheltered Content Instruction: Teaching English-Language Learners with Diverse Abilities. (Second Edition 2003) Allyn & Bacon, Boston, MA.

Freeman, D.E. & Freeman, Y.S., *Between Worlds: Access to Second Language Acquisition*. (1994) Heinemann, Portsmouth, NH.

Genesee, F. (1999). *Program Alternatives for Linguistically Diverse Students*. Santa Cruz, CA and Washington, DC: Center for Research on Education, Diversity & Excellence. Online at <a href="http://www.cal.org/crede/pubs/edpractice/EPR1.pdf">http://www.cal.org/crede/pubs/edpractice/EPR1.pdf</a>.

Haynes, J. (2007), *Getting Started with English Language Learners*, Association for Supervisors and Curriculum Developers: Alexandria, VA.

Krashen, S. (1985), The Input Hypothesis: Issues and Implications, Longman.

Krashen, S. (1985), Language Acquisition and Language Education, Alemany Press.

Krashen, S. (1987). *Principles and Practice in Second Language Acquisition*. Prentice-Hall International, 1987.

Krashen, S. (1988) Second Language Acquisition and Second Language Learning. Prentice-Hall International.

NW Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL), "Strategies and Resources for Mainstream Teachers of English Language Learners" http://www.nwrel.org/request/2003may/textonly.html.

Short, D., Hurdec, J.& Echevarria, J. (2002) *Using the Siop Model: Professional Development Manual for Sheltered Instruction*. Washington D.C.: Center for Applied Linguistics.

Thomas, W., & Collier, V. (2002). A national study of school effectiveness for language minority students' long-term academic achievement. Santa Cruz, CA and Washington, DC: Center for Research on Education, Diversity & Excellence.

Vogt, M.E., Echevarria, J (2008) 99 Ideas and Activities for Teaching English Learners with the SIOP Model. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.

WIDA Standards (2007) downloaded from http://www.standardswww.wida.us/standards/elp.asp.