

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING (ELL) DESCRIPTORS

WHAT IS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION?

Students are developing their language acquisition skills through various speaking, listening, reading, and writing activities. English language instruction is appropriate to each child's grade and support level. It is common for students to require five to seven years or more to acquire academic English proficiency. Depending on the context of learning, students may experience movement between different levels of support. Support for language acquisition is flexible and responsive to the needs of the students.

WHAT THE DESCRIPTORS INDICATE:

Beginning: Student is beginning to understand and express basic English words and phrases.
Developing: Student is able to understand varying amounts of everyday English. Student can understand simple text and use basic vocabulary and sentence structures.
Expanding: Student is able to understand varying amounts of conversational English and academic language. Student is able to use a range of vocabulary to express ideas. Student will need continued support with content language use and vocabulary development.
Consolidating: Student has increasing understanding of the curricular content and competencies in English. Student is able to use a range of academic language to express ideas. They require support with idiomatic expressions, words with multiple meanings, and abstract academic concepts.
Bridging: Student is approaching grade-level proficiency in English and is increasing independence to engage with the curricular competencies. They may need support with the nuances of language in specific situations (idioms, humour, and content areas unfamiliar to the student.)