

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY LEVELS

The definitions of the five limited-English language proficiency levels, as well as Level 6, one of two fully-English language proficiency levels, are from PI 13.08(3)(1)-(6), Wisconsin Administrative Rule. Level 7, the other fully-English language proficiency level, is used for purposes of state reporting/state testing.

Level 1—Beginning/Preproduction [WIDA level = Entering]:

A pupil shall be classified level 1 if the pupil does not understand or speak English with the exception of a few isolated words or expressions.

Level 2—Beginning/Production [WIDA level = Beginning]:

A pupil shall be classified level 2 if all of the following criteria are met:

- (a) The pupil understands and speaks conversational and academic English with hesitancy and difficulty.
- (b) The pupil understands parts of lessons and simple directions.
- (c) The pupil is at a pre-emergent or emergent level of reading and writing in English, significantly below grade level.

Level 3—Intermediate [WIDA level = Developing]:

A pupil shall be classified level 3 if all of the following criteria are met:

- (a) The pupil understands and speaks conversational and academic English with decreasing hesitancy and difficulty.
- (b) The pupil is post-emergent, developing reading comprehension and writing skills in English.
- (c) The pupil's English literacy skills allow the student to demonstrate academic knowledge in content areas with assistance.

Level 4—Advanced Intermediate [WIDA level = Expanding]:

A pupil shall be classified level 4 if all of the following criteria are met:

- (a) The pupil understands and speaks conversational English without apparent difficulty, but understands and speaks academic English with some hesitancy.
- (b) The pupil continues to acquire reading and writing skills in content areas needed to achieve grade level expectations with assistance.

Level 5—Advanced [WIDA level = Bridging]:

A pupil shall be classified level 5 if all of the following criteria are met:

- (a) The pupil understands and speaks conversational and academic English well.
- (b) The pupil is near proficient in reading, writing, and content area skills needed to meet grade level expectations.
- (c) The pupil requires occasional support.

Level 6—Formerly Limited-English Proficient/Now Fully-English Proficient:

A pupil shall be classified level 6 if all of the following criteria are met:

- (a) The pupil was formerly limited-English proficient and is now fully English proficient.
- (b) The pupil reads, writes, speaks and comprehends English within academic classroom settings.

Level 7—Fully-English Proficient/Never Limited-English Proficient:

The student was never classified as limited-English proficient and does not fit the definition of a limited-English proficient student outlined in either state or federal law.