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 of federal law.