

Old Capitol Building  
PO Box 47200  
Olympia, WA 98504-7200



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**  
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

October 5, 2020

Dear Superintendents:

The languages and cultures of multilingual/English learners (ELs) are assets to be valued, leveraged, and incorporated into their classrooms and throughout their lives. In support of our statewide priority to close opportunity gaps for multilingual/English learners and Native American students through dual language education, OSPI is transitioning from the ELPA21 Consortium to the WIDA Consortium.

The decision to shift English language proficiency standards and assessments comes after considerable review and input from stakeholders comprising educators, administrators, educator preparation faculty, students, families, community members, the OSPI Bilingual Education Advisory Committee, and the OSPI K–12 Dual Language Steering Committee.

Five factors have been key to the determination to make the intended transition:

1. Greater efficacy of integrating English language standards into a broader instructional framework. WIDA has five standards aligned to our State Learning Standards.
2. Opportunity to align with the WIDA K–12 Spanish Language Standards, assessments, and resources to increase support for expanding dual language programs across the state.
3. Access to materials supporting pre-K EL education.
4. Focus on assuring age appropriateness and efficacy in technology interactions available through the assessment instruments.
5. Availability of more robust professional learning tools to support teachers.

OSPI plans to fully transition from the current English Language Proficiency Standards and ELPA21 assessments to the WIDA K–12 English Language Development Standards for the 2021–22 school year, and the first administration of the annual WIDA assessments will be in spring 2022.

As part of the transition, OSPI will be gathering additional input from stakeholders. OSPI values the input and expertise of K–12 educators, tribal leaders, educator preparation programs, professional associations, students, families, and community members as crucial to this process, and will include more stakeholders in the activities to come.

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If there are questions and comments regarding this letter, please send them to the OSPI Bilingual Education team at [bilanguageeducation@k12.wa.us](mailto:bilanguageeducation@k12.wa.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris P.S. Reykdal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a stylized "R".

Chris Reykdal  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction