

ELPAC General Performance Level Descriptors

This document provides the general performance level descriptors (general PLDs) for the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California. These general PLDs take into account the categories of Emerging, Expanding, and Bridging. The language in the description draws from the language used to describe those categories on page 20 of the [2012 California English Language Development Standards: Kindergarten Through Grade 12](#) (PDF).

Following the field tests for the initial assessment (IA) and summative assessment (SA), the specific performance level threshold score recommendations will be submitted to the State Board of Education (SBE) for approval pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 60810(2) after the IA and SA standard settings. These general PLDs are structured so that for the summative assessment, a recommendation to consider an English learner for reclassification would be based on the threshold between level 3 and level 4. For the IA, a student whose IA results fall at or above the threshold between level 3 and level 4 would be considered Initial Fluent English Proficient (IFEP). These recommendations for IFEP and reclassification will be reconsidered by the SBE upon adoption of the specific threshold scores.

Level	Description
4	English learners at this level have fully functional receptive (listening and reading) and productive skills (speaking and writing). They can use English to learn and communicate in meaningful ways that are appropriate to different tasks, purposes, and audiences in a variety of social and academic contexts. They may need occasional linguistic support to engage in familiar social and academic contexts; they may need light support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics.
3	English learners at this level have moderately functional receptive (listening and reading) and productive skills (speaking and writing). They can sometimes use English to learn and communicate in meaningful ways in a range of topics and content areas. They need light to minimal linguistic support to engage in familiar social and academic contexts; they need moderate support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics.
2	English learners at this level have somewhat functional receptive (listening and reading) and productive skills (speaking and writing). They can use English to meet immediate communication needs but often are not able to use English to learn and communicate on topics and content areas. They need moderate-to-light linguistic support to engage in familiar social and academic contexts; they need substantial-to-moderate support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics.
1	English learners at this level have limited functional receptive (listening and reading) and productive English skills (speaking and writing). They tend to rely on learned words and phrases to communicate meaning at a basic level. They need substantial-to-moderate linguistic support to communicate in familiar social and academic contexts; they need substantial linguistic support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics.