WIDA Performance Definitions **Speaking and Writing**, Grades K–12

WIDA™

At each grade, toward the end of a given level of English language proficiency, and with instructional support, English language learners will produce…

	Discourse Level **Linguistic Complexity**	**Sentence Level** **Language Forms and Conventions**	**Word/Phrase Level** **Vocabulary Usage**
Level 6 – Reaching Language that meets all criteria through Level 5, Bridging			
Level 5 Bridging	• Multiple, complex sentences • Organized, cohesive, and coherent expression of ideas	• A variety of grammatical structures matched to purpose and nearly consistent use of conventions, including for effect • A broad range of sentence patterns characteristic of particular content areas	• Technical and abstract content-area language • Words and expressions with precise meaning related to content area topics
Level 4 Expanding	• Short, expanded, and some complex sentences • Organized expression of ideas with emerging cohesion	• A variety of grammatical structures and generally consistent use of conventions • Sentence patterns characteristic of particular content areas	• Specific and some technical content-area language • Words and expressions with multiple meanings or common collocations and idioms across content areas
Level 3 Developing	• Short and some expanded sentences with emerging complexity • Expanded expression of one idea or emerging expression of multiple related ideas	• Repetitive grammatical structures with occasional variation and emerging use of conventions • Sentence patterns across content areas	• Specific content words and expressions (including content-specific cognates) • Words or expressions related to content areas
Level 2 Emerging	• Phrases or short sentences • Emerging expression of ideas	• Formulaic grammatical structures and variable use of conventions • Repetitive phrasal and sentence patterns across content areas	• General content words and expressions (including common cognates) • Social and instructional words and expressions across content areas
Level 1 Entering	• Words, phrases, or chunks of language • Single words used to represent ideas	• Simple grammatical constructions (e.g., commands, Wh- questions, declaratives) • Phrasal patterns associated with common social and instructional situations	• General content-related words • Everyday social and instructional words and familiar expressions

…within sociocultural contexts for language use.