

## Brief Explanation of Composite Proficiency Levels for Grades 3-12

**Level 1 - Pre-functional** indicates that the student who is limited English proficient is:

- Beginning to understand short utterances
- Beginning to use gestures and simple words to communicate
- Beginning to understand simple printed material
- Beginning to develop communicative writing skills

**Level 2 - Beginning** indicates that the student who is limited English proficient can:

- Understand simple statements, directions, and questions
- Use appropriate strategies to initiate and respond to simple conversation
- Understand the general message of basic reading passages
- Compose short informative passages on familiar topics

**Level 3 - Intermediate** indicates that the student who is limited English proficient can:

- Understand standard speech delivered in school and social settings
- Communicate orally with some hesitation
- Understand descriptive material within familiar contexts and some complex narratives
- Write simple texts and short reports

**Level 4 - Advanced** indicates that the student who is limited English proficient can:

- Identify the main ideas and relevant details of discussions or presentations on a wide range of topics
- Actively engage in most communicative situations familiar or unfamiliar
- Understand the context of most text in academic areas with support
- Write multi-paragraph essays, journal entries, personal/business letters, and creative texts in an organized fashion with some errors

**Level 5 - Full English Proficiency** indicates that the student who is limited English proficient can:

- Understand and identify the main ideas and relevant details of extended discussion or presentations on familiar and unfamiliar topics
- Produce fluent and accurate language
- Use reading strategies the same as their native English-speaking peers to derive meaning from a wide range of both social and academic texts
- Write fluently using language structures, technical vocabulary, and appropriate writing conventions with some circumlocutions

A more complete set of proficiency level definitions for grades 3-12 are listed on pages 28-32 of this Guide.