

# Making the ELPS-TELPAS Connection

## Grades K–12 Overview

2016-2017



Texas Education Agency  
Student Assessment Division

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# Introduction

## 3 Session Objectives

1. To show the close connection between the Texas English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) and the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS)
2. To reinforce the benefits of using the ELPS to teach and assess English language learners (ELLs) effectively throughout the school year
3. To lay the foundation for the spring training of new TELPAS raters

# Definitions

- **What are the ELPS?**

Federally required instructional standards designed to ensure that ELLs are taught the academic English they need for school purposes

- **What is TELPAS?**

A federally required assessment program designed to measure the annual progress that ELLs make in learning the English language

- **What are TELPAS raters?**

Teachers trained to assess ELLs for TELPAS

# Nuts and Bolts

- The ELPS are used in foundation and enrichment instruction of K–12 ELLs.
- TELPAS assesses K–12 ELLs. The ELPS and TELPAS encompass –

## 4 language domains

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

## 4 proficiency levels

- Beginning
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Advanced High



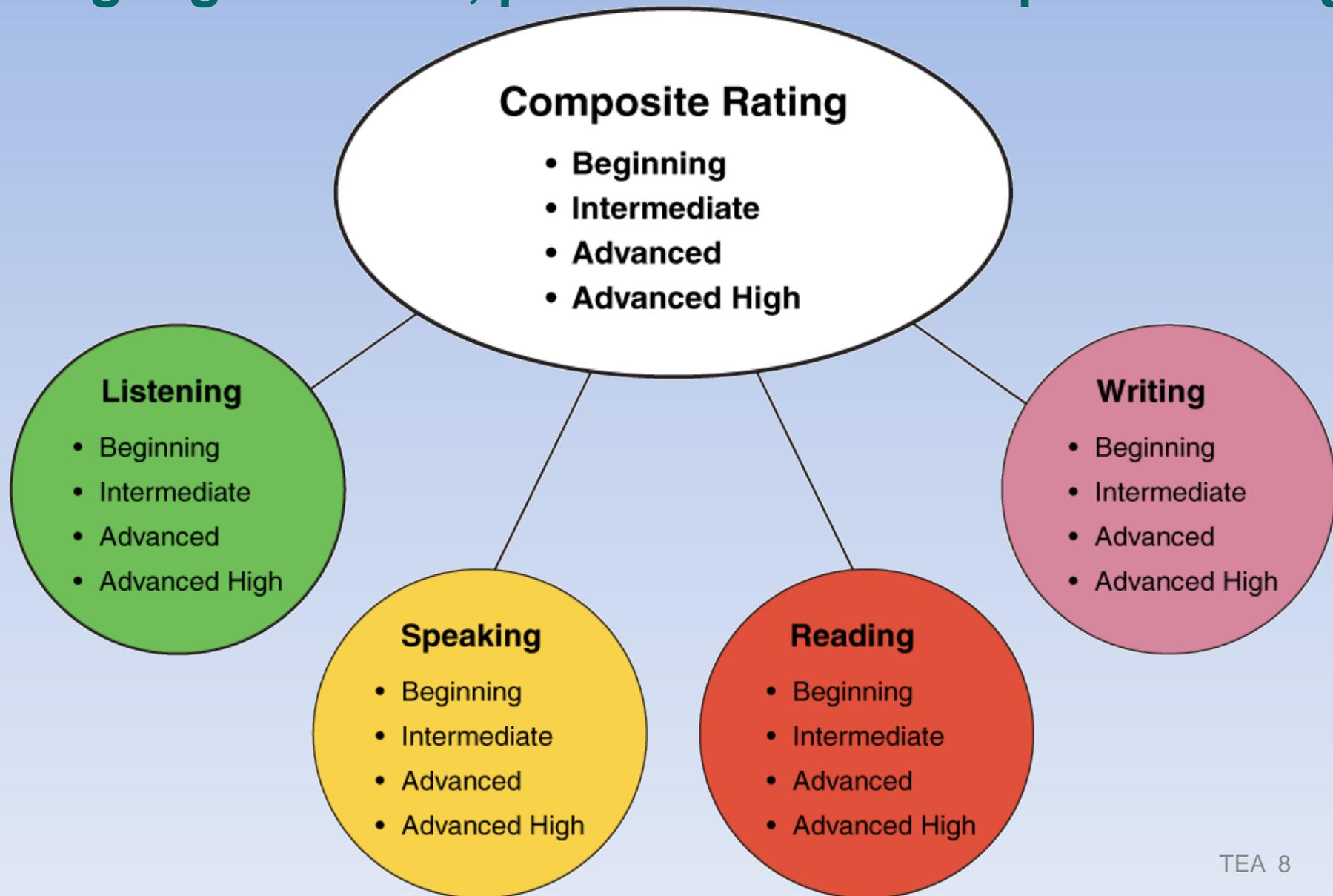
# Who Takes TELPAS

All ELLs in grades K–12, including those whose parents decline bilingual/ESL program services, are assessed annually.

In extremely rare cases, an ELL served by special education may not be required to participate in one or more TELPAS language domains by the ARD committee in conjunction with the LPAC.



# TELPAS provides proficiency level ratings for each language domain, plus an overall composite rating.





# Assessment Approaches

- TELPAS uses an **online multiple-choice test** to assess
  - 2–12 reading
- TELPAS uses a **holistic rating process and classroom performance** to assess
  - K–12 listening, speaking, and writing
  - K–1 reading



# Holistic Rating Process

- A direct and authentic way to assess English language proficiency
- Rubrics-based process of evaluating abilities as a whole rather than as skills in isolation
- Focuses on overall ability of students to understand and use English in grade-level academic settings
- Teacher-conducted and used in ongoing quality instruction and formative assessment
- Used for official summative TELPAS assessment in spring of year

# TELPAS Results

TELPAS results are used to —

- set learning goals for ELLs
- keep parents and students aware of annual progress in learning English
- inform instructional planning and bilingual/ESL program exit decisions
- report performance to the public
- evaluate programs, resources, and staffing patterns
- evaluate districts and campuses in federal and state accountability and monitoring indicators

# Brief ELPS Overview



# English Language Proficiency Standards

- Were approved by State Board of Education in 2007–2008
- Are part of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) state-required curriculum
- Include instruction school districts must provide to give ELLs full opportunity to learn English and succeed academically
- Require content area teachers to teach content area TEKS and help ELLs become English proficient
- Are an integral part of instruction in each TEKS foundation and enrichment subject
- Available on TEA's Curriculum website



# ELPS Components

## a) Introduction

- Integrate second language instruction with content area instruction to
  - make content comprehensible
  - build academic language proficiency

## c) Student Expectations for Second Language Acquisition

- Learning Strategies
- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

## b) District Responsibilities

- Linguistically adjust instruction based on student proficiency levels
- Implement strategic interventions for beginning and intermediate students in grade 3 and up

## d) Proficiency Level Descriptors for each Language Domain

- Beginning
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Advanced High



# Example Student Expectation (SE) and Proficiency Level Descriptor (PLD)

- **What to learn – SE**

Speaking SE (C) – Speak using a variety of grammatical structures, sentence lengths, sentence types, and connecting words with increasing accuracy and ease as more English is acquired

- **Stage of acquisition – PLD**

Intermediate speaking (B)(iii) – These students exhibit an emerging awareness of English grammar and speak using mostly simple sentence structures and simple tenses; are most comfortable speaking in present tense



# ELPS-TELPAS Connection

TELPAS measures the ELPS.



The two are integrally aligned.



# Measuring the ELPS

TELPAS assesses the abilities outlined in the

**ELPS student expectations (SEs)**

and reports performance in alignment with the

**ELPS proficiency level descriptors (PLDs).**

# PLDs and Instruction

Teachers should use the PLDs throughout the school year as **formative assessment** rubrics to —

- stay attuned to the English language proficiency levels of their students
- monitor progress
- linguistically tailor (accommodate) content area instruction and integrated second language instruction according to the proficiency level needs of their ELLs as the students learn more English



**Formative  
Assessment**

# PLDs and Statewide Assessment

- For TELPAS, trained raters officially determine the English language proficiency levels of ELLs in the spring.
- ELLs should be making steady progress all year.
- TELPAS is a **summative assessment** that documents the proficiency levels of ELLs as a statewide spring assessment.

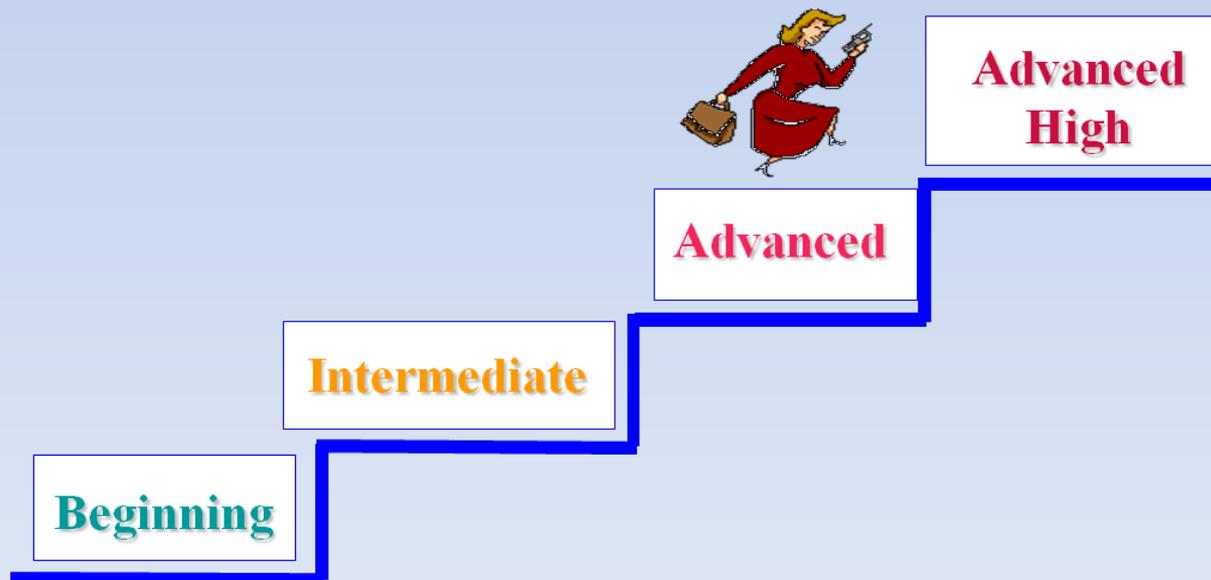


**Summative  
Assessment**

# Summative TELPAS Assessment

For each domain (listening, speaking, reading, and writing), TELPAS answers the following question:

How well is the student currently able to understand and use English during grade-level instruction?



# Benefit of TELPAS Rater Training on Formative Classroom Assessment

Teachers trained as TELPAS raters internalize the PLDs so that they are able to **naturally and automatically** assess their students' English language proficiency levels during ongoing classroom instruction.



# Benefit of Using PLDs in Instruction

- Teachers learn to make effective linguistic accommodations in class, which supports
  - learning of academic subject matter  
(**TEKS content area student expectations**)
  - learning of English language  
(**ELPS student expectations**)

# Reviewing the ELPS-TELPAS Connection

- Teachers use the SEs and PLDs from the ELPS for formative assessment all year.
- TELPAS raters are trained in depth to learn to use the PLDs for the official purposes of statewide assessment.
- In-depth TELPAS rater training makes ongoing, formative use of the PLDs easy and serves the purpose of statewide assessment.





# A Word About Grades 2–12 Reading

Even though a multiple-choice test is used to assess reading in grades 2–12, teachers use the ELPS student expectations and PLDs for reading in instruction just as they do for the domains of listening, speaking, and writing.

# Assessment Information for Administrators and Teachers

## To prepare for new school year:

Use TELPAS results to evaluate whether students have been making steady progress in learning English.

- TELPAS confidential campus rosters include
  - 2 years of test scores
  - how long student has been in U.S. schools

## LPAC meetings during school year:

Use previous spring's TELPAS results and current year's formative assessment results to gauge progress in English proficiency, plan for instructional interventions as needed, and inform spring decisions about student's participation in state-required assessments.

# Basics of TELPAS Holistic Rating Process



# Grades K–1

## Assessment Approach:

### Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing

Teachers determine English proficiency levels by observing students in class. They watch how their ELLs

- interact informally with them and other students
- understand and use English
  - when receiving academic instruction and completing class work
  - during cooperative learning activities



# Grades 2–12

## Assessment Approach

- There are 3 holistically rated language domains —
  - listening
  - speaking
  - writing
- Assessment approach for listening and speaking differs slightly from writing



# Grades 2–12

## Assessment Approach: Listening and Speaking

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# Grades 2–12

## Assessment Approach:

### Writing

TELPAS raters assemble a collection of each student's writing from a variety of content areas and use the collection as the basis for evaluating the student's English language proficiency in writing.

- Note that for ongoing formative assessment in grades 2–12, teachers use classroom observations and interactions in addition to student writing samples to monitor and promote growth in English language writing proficiency.
- At the time of TELPAS, student writing collections are the sole basis for the assessment of English language writing proficiency. Information from classroom observations and interactions is not used.

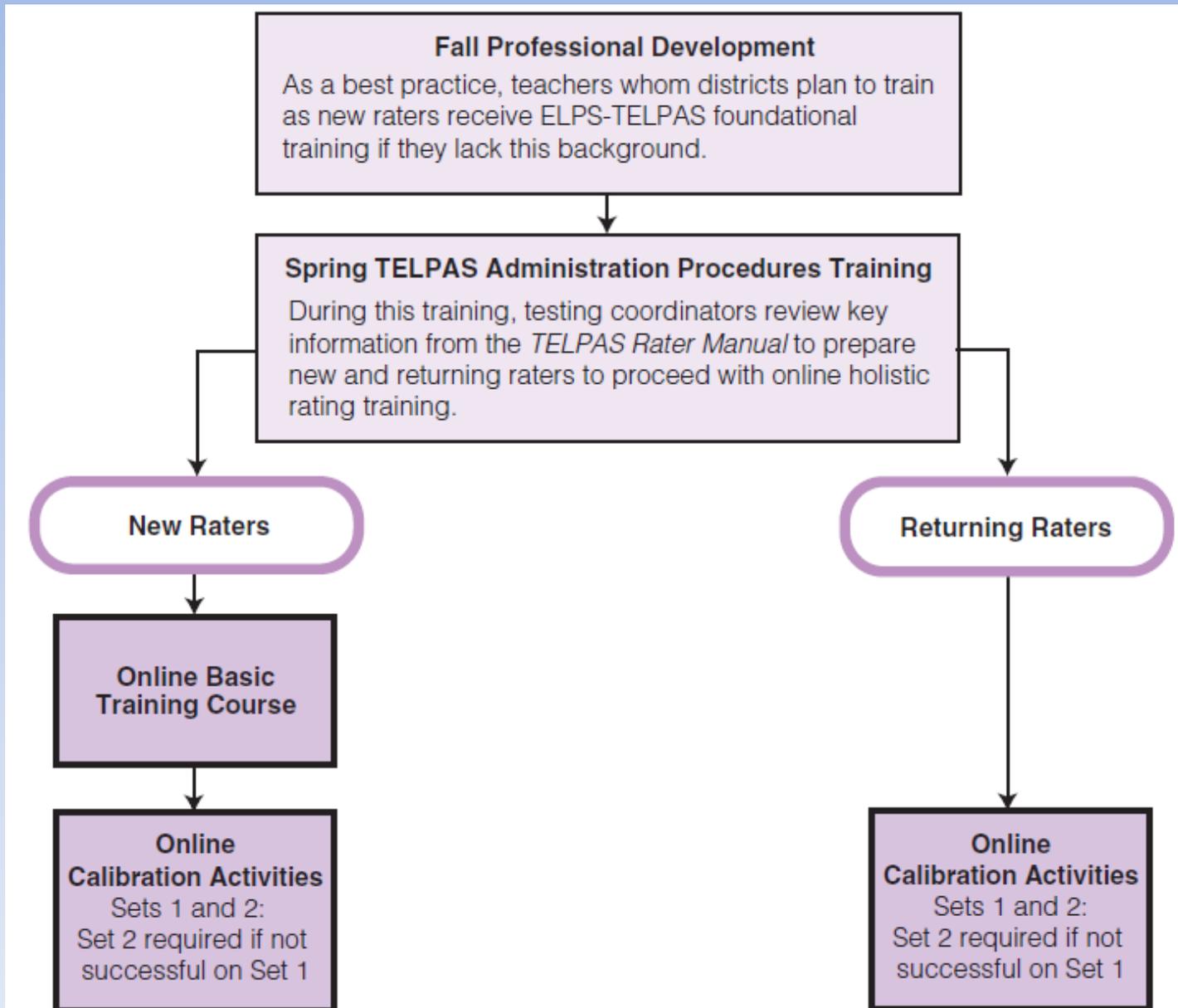
# Things to Know About TELPAS Rater Training and Administration Procedures



# TELPAS Rater Training

- It is recommended that districts and campuses determine in the fall who their TELPAS raters will be in the spring.
- A training flowchart is provided on the next slide.

# Grades K–12 Holistic Rating Training Flowchart





# Rater Credentials

Each teacher selected to rate an ELL must

- 1) have the student in class
- 2) be knowledgeable about the student's ability to use English in instructional and informal settings
- 3) hold valid education credentials such as a teacher certificate or permit
- 4) be appropriately trained, as required by TEA



# TELPAS Rater Responsibilities

- A student's TELPAS rater is the teacher designated by the district as the official rater of the student's English language proficiency.
- The student's rater must rate the student in all domains for which the student is eligible. It is not permitted for a student to have one rater for some domains and another rater for other domains.



# Collaboration with Others

In determining the proficiency ratings of their assigned students, raters are highly encouraged to collaborate with other teachers and school personnel who have knowledge of the students' English proficiency.



# District Validity and Reliability Procedures

- Districts are required to implement procedures that ensure validity and reliability of holistic rating process.
- Procedures may vary by campus, at district's discretion.
- For one year from the date of testing, campuses maintain documentation of procedures followed.



# TELPAS Audits

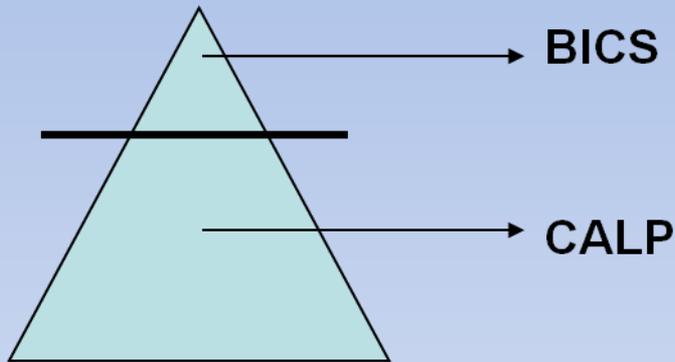
The Texas Education Agency conducts periodic audits of the TELPAS holistic assessment process. The goals of the audits are to examine whether

- the ratings of teachers reflect appropriate and consistent application of the PLD rubrics
- school district personnel follow training and test administration procedures



# Essentials of Second Language Acquisition

# Understanding Language Proficiency in Social and Academic Settings

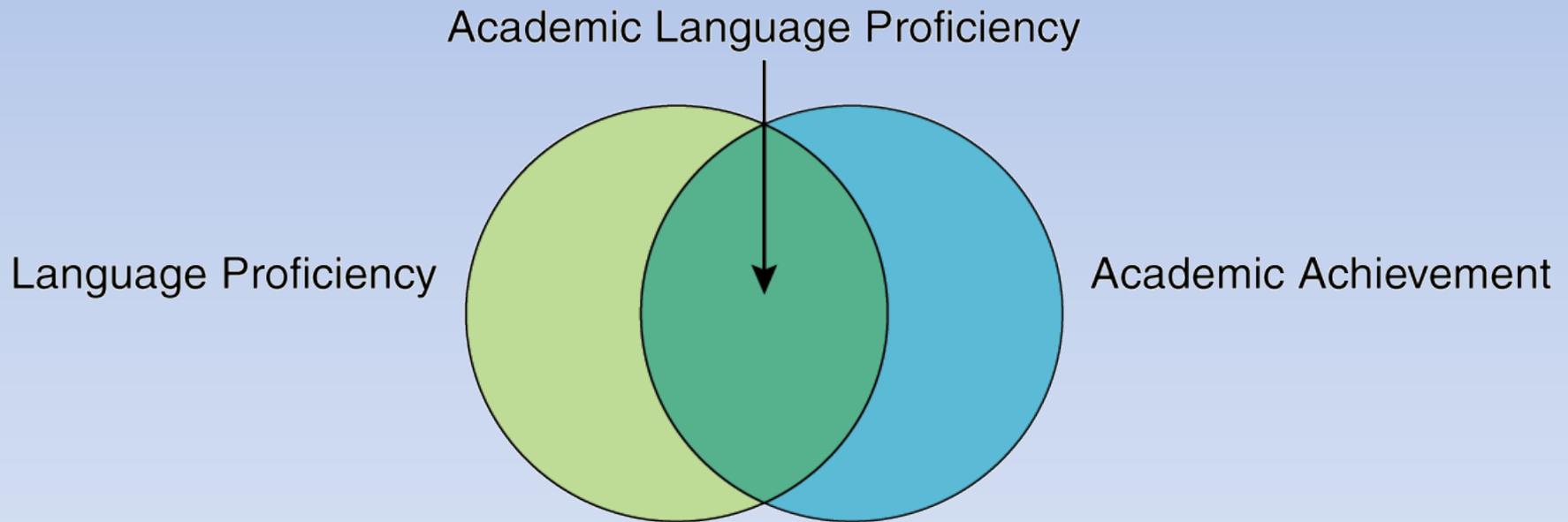


BICS: Basic Interpersonal Communicative Skills

CALP: Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency

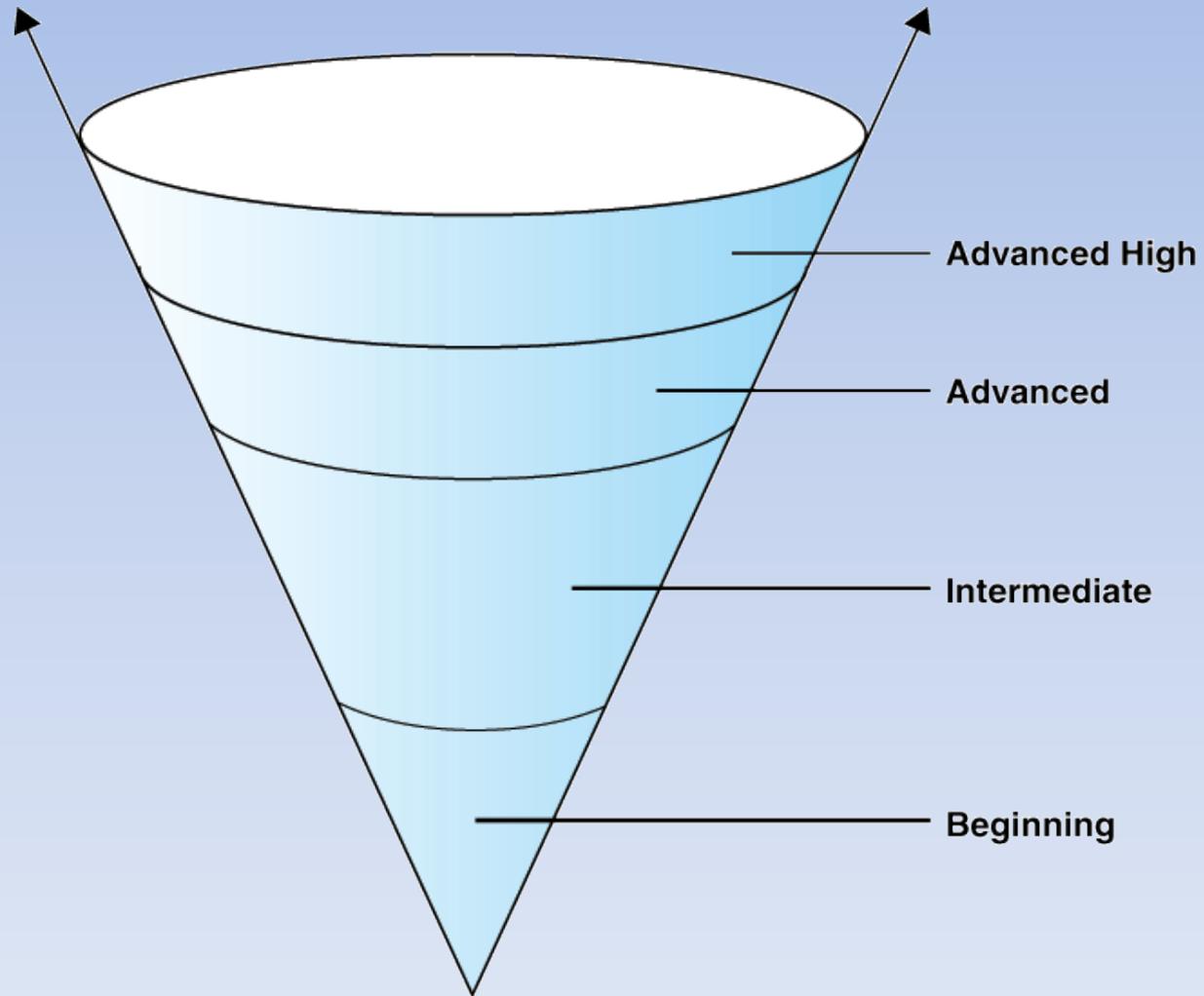


# The Argument for Academic English Language Proficiency





# Building English Language Proficiency: A Cumulative Process



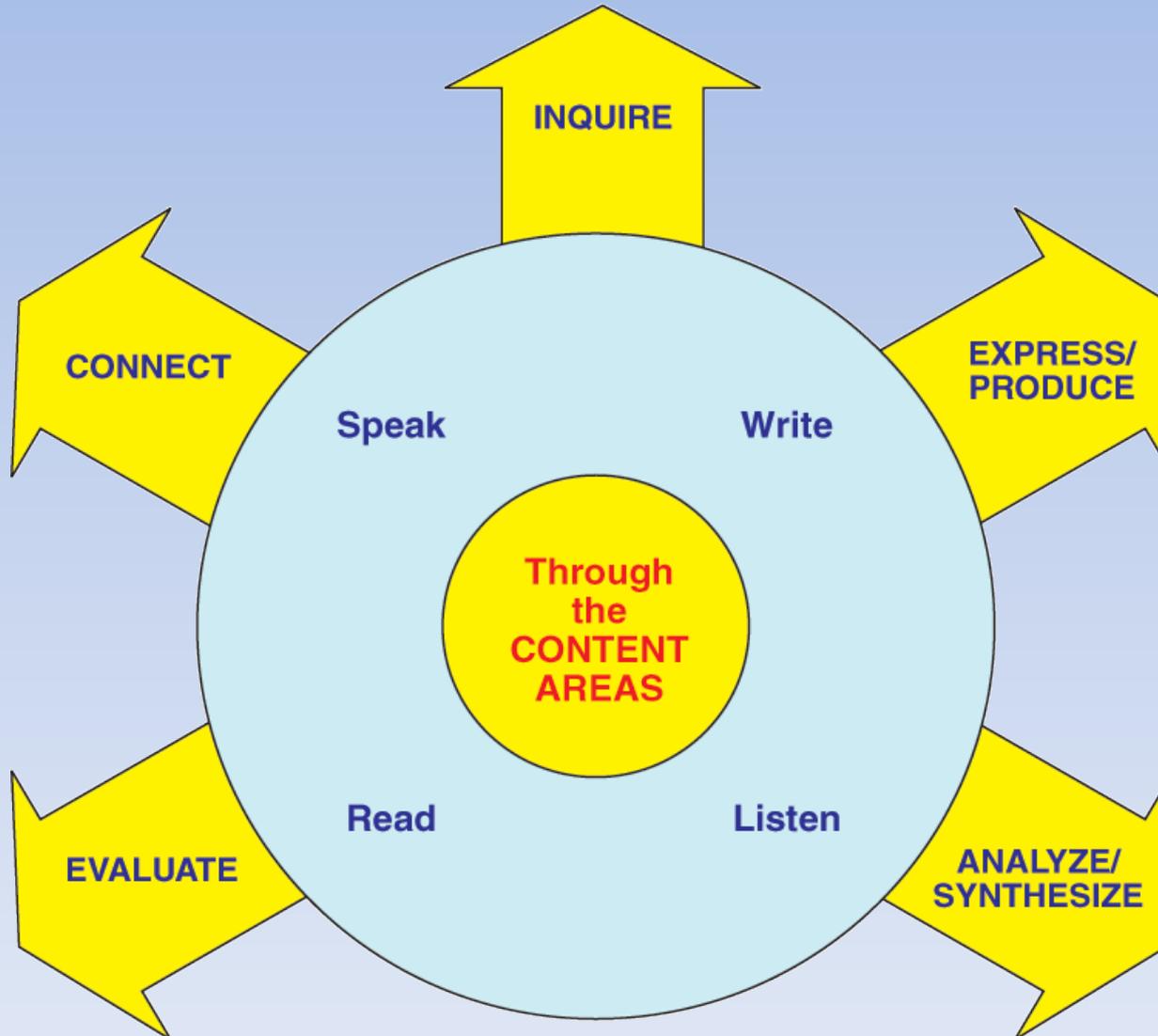


# Linguistic Domains

- 1. Listening:** the ability to understand spoken language, comprehend and extract information, and follow social and instructional discourse through which information is provided
- 2. Speaking:** the ability to use spoken language appropriately and effectively in learning activities and social interactions
- 3. Reading:** the ability to comprehend and interpret written text at the grade-appropriate level
- 4. Writing:** the ability to produce written text with content and format to fulfill grade-appropriate classroom assignments

*Adapted from Alief ISD Language Proficiency Profile*

# Teaching Language Through Content Area Instruction



# Summing Up



# Summing Up

## Ways ELPS and TELPAS Reinforce Quality Instruction

- ELLs use and practice their developing language.
- Teachers collaborate about the needs of ELLs.
- Teachers use a common vocabulary with one another and parents in
  - describing language levels and needs of ELLs, and
  - setting goals for progress.



# Summing Up

## Ways ELPS and TELPAS Reinforce Quality Instruction

- Teachers understand the stages of learning English and how to get students from one proficiency level to the next.
- Teachers learn to linguistically accommodate (communicate, sequence, and scaffold) instruction according to English language proficiency levels of ELLs.
- ELLs learn academic content more readily when they understand the language of their instruction.



# Bottom Line

Effective implementation of ELPS and TELPAS assessment approach throughout the school year helps ELLs

- learn English more quickly
- grasp academic concepts and skills more readily