

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON ALTERNATE ENGLISH LEARNER CONNECTORS

The [draft](#) Alternate Louisiana Connectors for English Learners (Alt EL Connectors) were developed for English Learners (ELs) with significant cognitive disabilities. They were adapted from *CCSSO's English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards for ELs with Significant Cognitive Disabilities*. ELs with significant disabilities are students who have been identified by Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams as having significant disabilities and by the English Language Proficiency Screener (ELPS) as needing English development services. They are a diverse group of students who, for the purpose of developing the Alt EL Connectors, are defined as students:

- who are progressing toward English language proficiency;
- whose primary home languages are other than English; and
- who have one or more disabilities that significantly affect their cognitive functioning and adaptive behavior¹

The Alt EL Connectors are the result of a cross-disciplinary effort to support states and other education entities as they work to meet the federal requirement to develop alternate assessments of English language proficiency (ELP) for ELs with significant cognitive disabilities². The Alt EL Connectors, measured by the alternate EL assessments, must be relevant and appropriate for ELs with significant cognitive disabilities, in addition to being rigorous, coherent, measurable, and linked to grade-level expectations³.

The Alt EL Connectors presented in this document were developed with explicit consideration of the range of learners who make up the ELs with significant cognitive disabilities student population. The Alt EL Connectors are further intended to support these students as they learn critical English language knowledge and skills and communicative competence needed to access and meaningfully engage in and succeed in social and academic contexts in the same way as students with significant cognitive disabilities who are not ELs.

The Alt EL Connectors are consortium-wide standards, meaning they are in use in several states under other names. Thus, the standards cannot be edited or modified as a result of individual states' public review process. However, guidance will be state specific and will take into account suggestions taken from the review process and public comment. LDOE welcomes your comments regarding the Alternate English Learner Connectors. Comments may be submitted via this [survey](#) by November 30, 2021. All comments are subject to public records requests.

¹ Christensen, Gholson, & Shyyan, 2018; Thurlow, Liu, Goldstone, Albus, & Rogers, 2018

² ESEA section 1111(b)(2)(G); 34 CFR § 200.6(h)(1), (5)

³ ESEA section 1111(b)(2)(G); 34 CFR §§ 200.2(b)(2), (b)(4), (b)(5), 200.6(h)(2); U.S. Department of Education, (2018).