



Individual California Standards Test (CST) Benchmarks for English Learners

English Language Arts (ELA)

CST	Expected OPL	CST Performance Level																
		FBB			BB			B			P			A				
		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3		
2-5	B				★	★												
	EI					★	★											
	I						★	★										
	EA							★	★	★								
	A									★	★							
	RFEP										★	★	★					
6-11	B			★	★													
	EI				★	★												
	I						★	★										
	EA							★	★	★								
	A									★	★							
	RFEP										★	★	★					

Mathematics

CST	Expected OPL	CST Performance Level															
		FBB			BB			B			P			A			
		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	
2-7 Alg 1 Geo	B				★	★											
	EI					★	★										
	I						★	★									
	EA							★	★	★							
	A									★	★						
	RFEP										★	★	★				

Expected OPL

- B = Beginning
- EI = Early Intermediate
- I = Intermediate
- EA = Early Advanced
- A = Advanced
- RFEP = Reclassified Fluent English Proficient

CST Performance Level

- FBB = Far Below Basic
- BB = Below Basic
- B = Basic
- P = Proficient
- A = Advanced

Explanatory Notes. These individual CST benchmarks reflect high but reasonable expectations for EL performance that generally increase with a student’s expected Overall Proficiency Level. Each CST performance level was broken down into three sublevels to provide a more incremental record of progress. (These sublevels were determined by dividing the range of scaled scores at each performance level for every CST into thirds.) The development of the CST expectations was based on the assessed performance levels of ELs who made timely progress in English language development.

Using the above benchmarks, a Grade 2 EL with an expected OPL of “intermediate” is expected to perform between BB-3 and B-1 on both CST ELA and mathematics, i.e., the student’s CST scaled score must be in the upper third of “below basic” to the lower third of “basic.” A student meets expectations by scoring in the BB-3 to B-1 range, exceeds expectations with a score above B-1, and fails to meet expectations with a score lower than BB-3. Former ELs who have been reclassified to fluent English status are expected to perform at the “proficient” level (P-1 to P-3) on the CST—the district expectation for all students.

The ultimate goal for all ELs is English language fluency and a performance level of “proficient” or above on both CST ELA and mathematics.