

We are often asked how E.L. Achieve’s initiatives are aligned to the Common Core State Standards. It is an important question and the answer is critical to any district interested in partnering with us.

The Common Core State Standards recognize that students must use formal English in their writing and speaking and make informed, skillful language choices to express themselves. Students will be held accountable for comprehending and responding to complex texts and demonstrating their understanding of content through discussions, presentations, and written performance tasks.

These shifts correspond directly to E.L. Achieve’s vision of instruction and the content of our professional development for teachers and administrators.

The CCSS place an unprecedented emphasis on language. Yet, they state that identifying supports for English learners is “beyond the scope of the Standards” (Common Core State Standards Initiative, 2010b, p. 6). Only through explicit language instruction and frequent oral and written practice will English learners be adequately prepared to independently and confidently meet the demands of the Common Core. Teachers deserve support in how to do this.

E.L. Achieve’s work is to equip educators with the knowledge and tools to empower English learners with a flexible and fluent command of English and the requisite language for academic achievement. E.L. Achieve addresses critical language demands of the CCSS in multiple ways:



<p>Language Knowledge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teaches language to understand how to use it in different contexts for a range of purposes ▪ Develops meta-linguistic awareness for flexibility in making language choices ▪ Explicitly teaches language to comprehend more fully when reading or listening
<p>Text complexity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides process, tools, and models for deconstructing text for target language ▪ Includes note-taking tools and reading strategies for comprehension of complex texts
<p>Reading and writing across the curriculum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offers content-specific tools, lessons, and strategies for ELD, ELA, Math, Science, and History
<p>Emphasis on informational text</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorporates journalistic articles, source documents, reference materials, and data tables into sample lessons and instructional materials ▪ Calls out features of text structures and functional language for high leverage text types
<p>Focus on writing arguments and drawing evidence from sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides a process, tools, and functional language for citing text and building an argument ▪ Includes tools for reflection and meta-cognition
<p>Participate in collaborative discussions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrates structured, targeted oral language practice into every lesson, every day ▪ Provides guidelines for facilitating small-group and whole class collaborative learning