

Descriptors of Language Proficiency

Applying to become a teacher with Edmonton Public Schools?

Refer to these descriptors when you complete Part 12 of your Teacher Application for Employment, which you can download at epsb.ca/careers. They will help you choose your level of proficiency in the languages you want to teach.

1 Beginner

- asks and answers simple questions
e.g. introductions, basic personal and family information
- talks about facts in the present using everyday expressions
- understands very simple texts: main ideas and basic points such as dates, numbers, or names
- writes isolated words, phrases, simple statements or questions on very familiar topics
- is understood if the listener pays close attention

2 Intermediate

Minimum level recommended for elementary second language programs

- understands main ideas and specific details in oral and written texts on concrete subjects
- engages in an informal conversation on familiar topics
- speaks with some spontaneity
- talks about basic facts and events in the present, past, and future
- writes short descriptive or factual texts, using appropriate grammar and vocabulary
- is understood by most people, although repetition may sometimes be required

3 Advanced

Minimum level recommended for elementary bilingual or immersion programs, and secondary second language programs

- understands main ideas and specific details in most oral and written texts related to social, travel and school-related subjects; including complex details, inferences and fine points of meaning
- participates effectively in discussions on a variety of topics
- speaks with a natural delivery
- writes explanations or descriptions in a variety of informal and formal social, work and school-related situations
- writes texts in which ideas are developed and presented in a coherent manner, with appropriate vocabulary, grammar and spelling
- is easily understood; pronunciation does not interfere with communication

4 Superior

Recommended level for secondary bilingual or immersion programs

- can easily understand whatever they hear or read
- expresses themselves spontaneously, very fluently and precisely
- produces, orally and in writing, clear, well structured detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of the linguistic system
- uses language flexibly and effectively for social, academic, and professional purposes