

# Language Proficiency Descriptors

## *Applying to become a teacher with Edmonton Public Schools?*

These descriptors will help you determine your level of proficiency in the language 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