



# SPIRE<sup>®</sup> and EPS Reading Accelerator alignment to WIDA

SPIRE and EPS Reading Accelerator are aligned to WIDA's English Language Development (ELD) Standards Framework. Both programs are designed to build the foundational literacy skills which are so critical for multilingual learners. Educators have access to the Teacher's Guide for each SPIRE level, offering comprehensive support. Reading Accelerator's Teacher's Guide includes specific guidance on culturally responsive teaching, providing corrective feedback and support, vocabulary and morphology development, and specific support for multilingual learners in every lesson.

EPS Reading Assistant is included as part of Reading Accelerator and is an optional part of SPIRE. Reading Assistant (RA) is an AI-driven tutor, designed to provide students with adaptive reading practice and intervention to deliver rapid results. Using voice-recognition technology, students read out loud while an interactive avatar assesses and delivers real-time personalized feedback and micro-interventions. Reading Assistant supports the acquisition of English, and is also available in Spanish.

Below are WIDA's ELD Standards Framework, with a description of how SPIRE, Reading Accelerator, and Reading Assistant address them:

## **ELD Standard 1**

English language learners communicate for **Social and Instructional** purposes within the school setting.

- SPIRE includes suggestions for spoken language and conversation in each lesson step. Please see Instructional Routines for Emergent Bilingual Students Using SPIRE to learn more.
- Reading Accelerator includes specific guidance for multilingual learners for every lesson to ensure students engage in spoken language during instruction.
- Reading Assistant includes comprehension conversations between the student and the AI tutor. Students speak in either English or Spanish to the avatar, who responds in a natural voice.

## ELD Standard 1

English language learners communicate information, ideas, and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of **Language Arts**.

- SPIRE and Reading Accelerator are designed to build foundational literacy skills so students can read, write, listen and speak in English. Here are the specifics lesson elements that address each literacy skill group:
- Print concepts
  - ▶ All SPIRE Steps and Reading Accelerator lessons: The concepts of sounds, letters, words, sentences, and paragraphs are integrated into all SPIRE and Reading Accelerator lessons.
  - ▶ SPIRE Step 4: Each lesson includes a Words & Sentences page in the Student Workbook. Students learn to read from left to right, top to bottom using decoding skills they've been explicitly taught.
  - ▶ SPIRE Step 6: Each Reinforcing SPIRE lesson includes a decodable passage in the Student Workbook, which is also included in Set A (illustrated) Decodable Readers. There is an optional Set B Decodable Reader book for every lesson as well. These readers are books which students can read independently, based on skills they've been explicitly taught. Educators work with students to identify authors and illustrators, text features, and parts of a book. The books include a wide variety of genres and topics.
  - ▶ Reading Accelerator Step 5: The Student Workbook includes pages for students to practice reading words, sentences, and passages from left to right, top to bottom.
  - ▶ Reading Assistant (RA) provides personalized practice in reading left to right, top to bottom. At the beginning, students read single lines of text, which can be lists for words, individual sentences, or passages. They are receiving support from the AI tutor as needed. As they build their skills, the length of the content increases.
- Phonological Awareness
  - ▶ SPIRE Steps 1-2 and Reading Accelerator Steps 1-2: Teachers work through instructional routines to support students to hear and make the sounds of English. They learn to manipulate sounds to make new words.
  - ▶ SPIRE Steps 1-2 and Reading Accelerator Step 1 (including Spanish cognates): Students are encouraged to understand differences in sounds from their home language and English. Reading Accelerator has information regarding Spanish cognates in the Teacher's Guide for each lesson.
  - ▶ Reading Assistant provides Skills Scaffolds for students who need significant support in this area. Students work through a series of gamified practice sessions to build phonemic awareness. As they advance, they receive just-in-time support in the context of reading practice.

- Phonics and Word Recognition

- ▶ SPIRE Steps 1-3 and Reading Accelerator Steps 2-3: Students match letters to sounds. They learn to manipulate letters to spell new words.
- ▶ SPIRE Steps 4-6 and Reading Accelerator Steps 3-5: Students decode and analyze words using decoding skills they've been explicitly taught.
- ▶ SPIRE Steps 7-10 and Reading Accelerator Step 4: Students write letters, words, and sentences as dictated by the educators. This supports orthographic mapping to build automaticity in word recognition.
- ▶ Reading Assistant provides Skills Scaffolds for students who need significant support in this area. Students work through a series of gamified practice sessions to build phonemic awareness. As they advance, they receive just-in-time support in the context of reading practice.

- Fluency

- ▶ SPIRE Step 4 and Reading Accelerator Step 5: Students read the Words & Sentences page of the Student Workbook to build fluency at the word and sentence levels.
- ▶ SPIRE Step 6 and Reading Accelerator Step 5: Students read decodable passages in their Student Workbooks, along with illustrated decodable readers to practice what they've been explicitly taught in context.
- ▶ Reading Assistant provides ongoing fluency practice through its oral reading. Students read selections aloud and receive just-in-time feedback from the AI tutor. Students, parents, and educators can track progress in fluency through indicators of speed and accuracy.

<b>ELD Foundational Literacy Skill Group</b>	<b>SPIRE Step</b>	<b>Reading Accelerator Step</b>
Print Concepts	4, 6, RA	5, RA
Phonological Awareness	1, 2, RA	1, 2, RA
Phonics and Word Recognition	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, RA	2, 3, 4, 5, RA
Fluency	4, 6, RA	5, RA

For ELD Standard 2, each key language use (narrate, inform, persuade, argue) is addressed for each grade band in SPIRE, Reading Accelerator, and Reading Assistant:

<b>WIDA Standard</b>	<b>Grade Band</b>	<b>SPIRE</b>	<b>Reading Accelerator</b>	<b>Reading Assistant</b>
ELD-SI.K-3.Narrate	K-3	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-SI.K-3.Inform	K-3	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-SI.K-3.Explain	K-3	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-SI.K-3.Argue	K-3	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-SI.4-12. Narrate	4-12	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-SI.4-12. Inform	4-12	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-SI.4-12. Explain	4-12	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD.SI.4-12. Argue	4-12	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-LA.2-3. Narrate.Interpervtive	2-3	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-LA.2-3. Narrate.Expressive	2-3	Yes	Yes	No
ELD-LA.2-3. Inform.Interpretive	2-3	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-LA.2-3. Inform.Expressive	2-3	Yes	Yes	No
ELD-LA.4-5. Narrate.Interpretive	4-5	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-LA.4-5. Narrate.Expressive	4-5	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-LA.6-8. Narrate.Interpretive	6-8	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-LA.6-8. Narrate.Expressive	6-8	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-LA.9-12. Narrate.Interpretive	6-8	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELD-LA.9-12. Narrate.Expressive	6-8	Yes	Yes	Yes

**The remaining WIDA Standards address disciplinary literacy in mathematics, science, and social studies:**

- ELD Standard 3 – English language learners communicate information, ideas, and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of **Mathematics**.
- ELD Standard 4 – English language learners communicate information, ideas, and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of **Science**.
- ELD Standard 5 – English language learners communicate information, ideas, and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of **Social Studies**.

SPIRE allows opportunities for students to respond to carefully developed, decodable passages and books provided according to students' reading abilities. During Step 6 of EVERY SPIRE lesson, students narrate, inform, explain and argue, practicing expressive and interpretive skills. Additionally, SPIRE's Vocabulary and Comprehension supplement (provided free to each SPIRE user) includes additional comprehension activities that can be used with Decodable Readers Sets A and B. The Supplement also includes specific Tier 2 general academic vocabulary and Tier 3 disciplinary vocabulary activities that can be used to build on these ELD standards.

Reading Accelerator includes passages that connect to middle school topics in science and social studies, and provides a list of those topics in its scope and sequence (included in the Teacher's Guide). Reading Accelerator also includes Tier 2 general academic vocabulary and Tier 3 disciplinary vocabulary extensions in various disciplines. Details are included in the scope and sequence, and within each lesson plan.

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