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**English as a Second Language Standards**

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**The Background:**

Tennessee is changing ESL standards to correspond to Common Core State Standards. The standards that we will adopt and eventually assess are the World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) standards. This will allow our SDE to remove a finding placed against Tennessee's Title III program from the United States Department of Education. We have not had the financial support or the capacity to link our current ESL standards to academic standards. The WIDA standards correspond to the Common Core State Standards. Further, it allows Tennessee to work more meaningfully to close the achievement gap for the limited English proficient (LEP) subgroup.

These standards and the corresponding assessment were presented to the ESL Task Force in the summer of 2011. The task force comprised of Tennessee public school administrators and teachers approved the standards and assessment.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of the standards on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.