

Table 2. A selection of standards and student performance indicators from the Tennessee ELL standards document, showing inconsistent differentiation across SPI's. Available online at <<http://state.tn.us/education/ci/esl/index.shtml>>.

	Grade Level	Standard	Beginning SPI	High Beginning SPI	Intermediate SPI	High Intermediate SPI	Advanced SPI
ESL Listening Standards	7th-8th	<b>7-8.L.1 The student will show understanding of appropriate vocabulary.</b>	a. Demonstrate understanding of Beginning-level vocabulary.	a. Demonstrate understanding of High-Beginning level vocabulary.	a. Demonstrate understanding of everyday vocabulary.	a. Demonstrate understanding of academic vocabulary.	a. Demonstrate understanding of academic vocabulary.
	9th-12th	<b>9-12.L.1 Students will show understanding of academic vocabulary.</b>	a. Demonstrate understanding of everyday vocabulary.	a. Demonstrate understanding of everyday vocabulary including singular and plural regular and irregular nouns and action verbs.	a. Demonstrate understanding of everyday vocabulary including singular and plural regular and irregular nouns and action verbs.		
ESL Speaking Standards	7th-8th	<b>7-8.S.3. The student will use standard English conventions for oral communication.</b>		c. Orally demonstrate the ability to use present and past tense verbs accurately.	c. Orally demonstrate the ability to use the following verb tenses accurately: present, past, and present continuous.	c. Orally demonstrate the ability to use the following verb tenses accurately: present, past, present continuous, present perfect, present perfect continuous, past continuous, and future.	c. Show ability to use the following verb tenses accurately: present, past, present continuous, present perfect, present perfect continuous, past continuous, and future.
	9th-12th	<b>9-12.S.3 Students will use appropriate sentence construction for clear communication.</b>	b. Show ability to use simple present, simple past tense of verbs accurately.	b. Show ability to use the following verb tenses accurately with verbs: present, past, present continuous (e.g., Give a complete sentence answer to questions that require the use of various forms of verb phrases.)	b. Show ability to use the following verb tenses accurately with verbs: present, past, present continuous, present perfect, and present perfect continuous (e.g., Give a complete...	b. Show ability to use the following verb tenses accurately: present, past, present continuous, present perfect, present perfect continuous, future, past continuous, and past perfect continuous (e.g., Give a complete...	b. Show ability to use the following verb tenses accurately: present, past, present continuous, present perfect, present perfect continuous, past continuous, past perfect, future, future perfect (e.g., Give a complete...

ESL Reading Standards	7th-8th	<b>7-8.R.3. The student will develop reading skills necessary for word recognition, comprehension, interpretation, analysis, evaluation, and appreciation of print and non-print texts.</b>	<b>g.</b> Build vocabulary by reading and viewing from a wide variety of sources.	<b>g.</b> Build vocabulary by reading and viewing from a wide variety of sources.	<b>g.</b> Build vocabulary by reading and viewing from a wide variety of sources.	<b>g.</b> Build vocabulary by reading and viewing from a wide variety of sources.	<b>g.</b> Build vocabulary by reading and viewing from a wide variety of sources.
	9th-12th	<b>HS.R.1 The student will develop the reading skills necessary for word recognition, comprehension, interpretation and analysis.</b>			<b>cc.</b> Show understanding of the elements common to specific text structures: expository, narrative, persuasive, and descriptive.	<b>cc.</b> Show understanding of the elements common to specific text structures: expository, narrative, persuasive, and descriptive.	<b>cc.</b> Show understanding of the elements common to specific text structures: expository, narrative, persuasive, and descriptive.
ESL Writing Standards	7th-8th	<b>7-8.W.7. The student will develop the structural and creative skills of the writing process necessary to produce written language for a variety of purposes.</b>			<b>a.</b> Write a brief descriptive paragraph with a topic sentence and two or three supporting details.	<b>a.</b> Write a descriptive paragraph with a topic sentence and several supporting sentences.	<b>a.</b> Write a descriptive paragraph with a topic sentence and several supporting sentences.
	9th-12th	<b>H.S..W.1 The student will develop the structural skills of the writing process.</b>	<b>aaa.</b> Write a descriptive paragraph with a topic sentence and several supporting ideas.	<b>aaa.</b> Write a descriptive paragraph with a topic sentence and several supporting ideas.	<b>aaa.</b> Write a descriptive paragraph with a topic sentence and several supporting ideas.	<b>aaa.</b> Write a descriptive paragraph with a topic sentence and several supporting ideas.	