



SuccessMaker Starting Levels for English Learners

Changing Starting Levels

As you begin your implementation of SuccessMaker with your English Learners, remember that the Math and Reading courses will find the students' functioning levels during Initial Placement. Before Initial Placement begins, you will need to adjust the Starting Level for your students in the Teacher Dashboard. Be sure to adjust your students' levels before they log in to SuccessMaker for the first time.

To adjust the Starting Level for each student, log in to the Teacher Dashboard and click **Students** at the top of the page. Then, under the Performance tab, click the Action icon to the right of the individual student's assignment and select **Edit assignment settings**. Set "Manually set course level" to **On** and use the "Course level" slide bar to set the correct starting level. Then click **Save** to save the settings for the student.

Figure-1. Edit Assignment Window





Choosing Starting Levels

Select a Starting Level

To determine the best Starting Level to select for each student, use your state language proficiency (LP) assessment to determine language proficiency levels. Then, take that level and use Table 1 or 2, depending on how many LP levels your state recognizes, and use the SuccessMaker starting level that corresponds to the Language Proficiency level.

If a student's demographic grade or grade equivalency (GE) level is lower than the starting level recommended by the tables below, don't use the levels from the tables. Instead, use the demographic level or the GE level as a starting level.

Table-1. Suggested Starting Levels (4 Levels)

English Language Level	Grade Level Equivalency	SuccessMaker Starting Levels
Level 1	K-1	0.00
Level 2	1-2	1.00
Level 3	3-4	3.00
Level 4	5+	3.00

Table-2. Suggested Starting Levels (5 Levels)

English Language Level	Grade Level Equivalency	SuccessMaker Starting Levels
Level 1	K-1	0.00
Level 2	1-2	1.00
Level 3	2-4	2.00
Level 4	4-5	4.00
Level 5	5+	4.00



Example of how Starting Levels are Determined

Table 3 below is an example of how we determined the starting levels based on language proficiency levels. Your state may have more or fewer language proficiency levels or use different language for each level.

Table-3. Sample Stages of Language Acquisition and Strategies

Stages of Language Acquisition	Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing
<p>Stage One: Preproduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Natural Approach • Comprehensible input (Language students can understand) • Meaningful listening • Listening to make sense of the world 	<p>Reading Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to storybooks • Rhythm, stress, and intonation • Connecting pictures with words • Making sense of the world <p>SuccessMaker Reading- K-1 Custom courses Starting level 0.00</p>
<p>Stage Two: Early Production</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bobbing and weaving (Teacher) • More comprehensible input • Total Physical Response (TPR) • Non-verbal responses (Touch the...) • Listening with purpose • Listening to response 	<p>Reading Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to stories and nonfiction • Print awareness and understanding that a word represents a verbal unit • Upper and lower case letter recognition <p>SuccessMaker Reading 1-2 Customer Courses Starting level 1.00</p>
<p>Stage Three: Speech Emergence</p> <p>Beginning levels of reading and writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral language acquisition • Auditory discrimination • Phonetic features • Vocabulary acquisition • Time on task, with clear goals • Purposeful practice, with clear outcomes <p>Intermediate Levels of Reading and Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar elements such as syntax and noun-verb agreement • Descriptive vocabulary use • Comprehension skills and reading strategies • Writing skills 	<p>Early Reading – Early Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic phonics instruction • Blending and pattern recognition • Vocabulary acquisition and enrichment • Listening and beginning reading of storybooks • Language experience approach <p>SuccessMaker Reading 3-4 Custom courses Starting level 3.00</p>
<p>Stage Four: Fluency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social fluency • Academic fluency 	<p>Reading and Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decoding: Critical for decoding is the ability to break long words into syllables <p>SuccessMaker Reading 5+ Custom courses Starting Level 3.00 - 5.00</p>