

## DEFINITIONS

**Standards:** Curricular standards are general statements of what the student should know and be able to do.

**Benchmarks:** Benchmarks are specific statements of what the student should know or be able to do. They are used to measure a student's progress toward meeting the standard. For the purpose of this document, benchmarks are defined for all stages of learning the target language.

**Stages of language development:**

**Introduction:** At this stage the student communicates with phrases and words to express basic needs. An example would be, "I need a hat."

**Expanding:** At this stage the student expresses and elaborates on basic needs. i.e., "I need a wool hat because my ears are cold."

**Mastery:** At this stage the student communicates in 'paragraphs' to respond to and resolve problems. An example would be, "If hats are on sale when I get my next paycheck, I might go get one to keep my ears warm."

**Indicators:** Indicators state what knowledge or skills a student must demonstrate in order to meet a particular benchmark at a given developmental stage. Indicators are categorized according to the complexity of skills and knowledge needed to accomplish a stated task.

**Target Language:** Spanish or French

**Native Language:** English