

Four Strands: Sheltered Instruction is an approach that makes academic content, as well as language development, more accessible for EL students. The Education Connections activities are based on **Four Strands** of Sheltered Instruction. They are: Define; Modify; Cultivate; Apply.

Define:

- Develop, define, refine, communicate, and assess *content objectives* for every lesson
- Develop, define, refine, communicate, and assess *language objectives* for every lesson
- Ensure objectives derive from, and are aligned with, English language proficiency (ELP), as well as content standards

Modify:

- Differentiate instruction through lesson adaptation and instructional modifications
- Scaffold instruction in response to students' individualized language and content learning needs
- Identify the language demands and domains embedded in lessons and explicitly address language use and needs for both teaching and learning

Cultivate:

- Explicitly identify and acknowledge the cultural competence, human capital, knowledge, experiences, and resources students bring to the classroom
- Invite parental and/or familial involvement in the school and classroom and make connections that extend beyond the core curriculum
- Support native language maintenance, additive bilingualism, and biliteracy development

Apply:

- Directly promote language use through interaction with peers, teachers, as well as the core content
- Encourage and facilitate language use in both English, as well as students' home languages
- Develop and implement activities that require use of all four language domains