STAGE ONE/NOVICE STAGE OF LANGUAGE LEARNING
(Grades K-5, 6-8, & 9-12)

Stage I refers to novice learners (according to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines) and assumes basic language proficiency at a beginning stage of language development. Stage I learners are generally found in three different age levels in Ohio programs: Grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. The following is a list of text types and contexts typical of Stage One learners that are found in Foreign Languages: Ohio’s Model Competency-Based Program and that were used in creating the model assessments.

Text Type
Students who are proficient at Stage I of language development can:
- speak and write using short sentences which contain learned words and phrases (interpersonal and presentational)
- understand short, simple phrases and sentences when listening (interpretive)
- understand brief texts when supported by visual cues (interpretive)

Context
Students who are proficient at Stage I of Language Development should be able to use the target language to:
- give and follow simple instructions
- ask and answer questions about age-appropriate topics such as family, school events, and celebrations
- share likes, dislikes, and simple preferences
- write lists and short personal letters
- understand main ideas of age-appropriate oral narratives such as familiar children's stories
- understand short personal messages on familiar topics
- prepare illustrated stories about activities or events in their environment and share these stories with an audience such as the class