

# news

## For Immediate Release

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### TESOL Supports the Rights of Deaf Learners

Alexandria, Virginia (July 2009) – At its recent meeting, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), approved the association's position in support of the rights of Deaf learners.

As the global association for English language educators, TESOL values individual language rights, and respect for diversity and multiculturalism. In the case of Deaf students, TESOL recognizes and supports Deaf learners' right to become proficient in a signed language or written or spoken language(s), including English. TESOL advocates that adequate support and resources be allocated for bilingual education programs, including programs for Deaf students that utilize a native signed language.

TESOL's full *Position Statement on the Rights of Deaf Learners to Acquire Full Proficiency in a Native Signed Language* is available at [www.tesol.org](http://www.tesol.org).

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Incorporated in 1966, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), is a global association for English language teaching professionals headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, USA. TESOL encompasses a network of nearly 60,000 educators worldwide, consisting of more than 12,000 individual members and an additional 45,000 educators within the 100 plus TESOL affiliate associations. Representing a multifaceted academic discipline and profession, TESOL offers members serial publications, books, and electronic resources on current issues, ideas, and opportunities in the field of English language teaching. TESOL also conducts a variety of workshops and symposia, including an annual convention, regarded as the foremost professional development opportunity for English language educators worldwide. TESOL's mission is to develop and maintain professional expertise in English language teaching for speakers of other languages worldwide.