

news

For Immediate Release

TESOL Contact: John Segota
Tel. 703-518-2513
E-mail jsegota@tesol.org

TESOL Board Approves New Position Statement on Adult ESL Education

Alexandria, Virginia (April 2010) – At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), approved a new position statement on adult English as a second or additional language (ESL/EAL) education. Recognizing the growth in many countries of the population whose first language is not English, TESOL urges countries where English is the common, dominant, or official language to make commitments to developing national systems of high quality, appropriate language and literacy services specifically tailored to the needs of adults learning ESL/EAL in their populations.

In the statement, TESOL provides a series of recommendations for countries in developing their policies for these types of programs. The services developed within these program systems should support adults learning English, regardless of their language and cultural backgrounds and previous schooling, to accomplish their immediate and long-term educational goals, to contribute economically by being fully enfranchised in the 21st century workforce, and to make significant and discernible progress toward reaching their full potential in their roles in society.

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ABOUT TESOL: 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 over 50,000 educators worldwide, consisting of more than 12,000 individual members and an additional 40,000 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.