

# news

## For Immediate Release

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## TESOL Speaks Out for Adolescent English Language Learners

Alexandria, VA (April 2006) - At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL) approved the association's position on adolescent English language learners in adult ESL programs in the United States. Specifically, the association's position states:

- adolescent English language learners make up a broad and diverse group with needs that are quite distinct from those of adult learners;
- TESOL strongly opposes efforts to encourage adolescent English language learners' early withdrawal from high school in order to boost the academic ratings and test scores at the high school level;
- TESOL supports the development and implementation of programs that help adolescent English language learners to achieve the same high academic expectations and goals that are expected of their native-English-speaking peers, such as transitional ESOL high schools and newcomer programs; and
- TESOL strongly advocates for collaboration and articulation between secondary schools and local post-secondary institutions so that adolescent English language learners can complete their educations and achieve academic success.

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## ***TESOL Speaks Out for Adolescent English Language Learners (con't)***

TESOL's *Position Statement on Adolescent English Language Learners in Adult ESL Programs in the United States* is available at <http://www.tesol.org>.

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Founded in 1966, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL) is a global education association with more than 13,000 members and 90 affiliates in over 120 countries. TESOL is recognized as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) of the United Nations Department of Public Information. TESOL's mission is to ensure excellence in English language teaching to speakers of other languages.