

## TESOL U.S. Federal Policy Priorities for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress

**TESOL International Association** (TESOL) is the trusted global authority for knowledge and expertise in English language teaching. With over 13,000 members world-wide, TESOL fosters the exchange of ideas to advance the expertise of those teaching English while supporting equity, diversity, access, and multilingualism. Issues and policy areas TESOL strongly supports include:

- **Sufficient and effective** funding for federal education programs serving all English learners and newcomers, from birth through adult education.
- **Improved** professional development and career pathways for existing and future English language teachers to gain the skills required to meet the needs of the country's diverse English learner population of over 5 million K-12 students.
- **Fair** immigration policies that do not discriminate or favor individuals based on their country of origin, English language skills, education level, race, religion, or sexual orientation and seek to promote diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible environments within schools and communities.
- **Support** for schools as havens of trust, safety, and security so that our students can learn and our teachers provide that learning in enriching and vibrant environments, in confidence they are protected and free from harm.

**Entering the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, the following are the legislative priorities of TESOL members:**

### Appropriations

Appropriations for ESSA Titles I, II, and III and for AEFLA (Title II of WIOA) and Title II of the Higher Education Act supporting Teacher Quality Partnerships (TQP)

Below are the FY22 and FY23 enacted budgets, the FY24 Presidential Proposed Budget, and the FY24 TESOL Ask

	FY22 Enacted	FY23 Enacted	FY24 Pres	FY24 Ask
<b>ESSA</b>				
<b>Title I</b>	\$17.5b	\$18.4b	\$20.5b	\$20.5b
<b>Title II-A</b>	\$2.17b	\$2.19b	\$2.19b	\$2.3b
<b>Title III</b>	\$831m	\$890m	\$1.19b	\$2b
<b>AEFLA</b>	\$704.1m	\$729.2m	\$729.2m	\$810m
<b>HEA (TQP)</b>	\$59.1m	\$70m	\$132.1m	\$132.1m

We are asking \$2 billion for Title III ESSA to keep up with the population growth and impact of inflation.

## Elementary/Secondary Education

### [SYLLABLE Act](#)

Supporting Young Language Learners' Access to Bilingual Education Act

Introduced in 117<sup>th</sup> by Rep Grijalva

To establish high-quality dual language immersion programs in low-income communities

Why does TESOL support this legislation? This legislation improves school readiness of children from low-income families, including English learners through incentivizing the development of high-quality dual language programs from preschool through fifth grade.

### [FLUENT Act](#)

Families Learning and Understanding English Together Act

Introduced in 117<sup>th</sup> by Rep Grijalva

To establish a grant program that provides literacy services to families with English language learners.

Why does TESOL support this legislation? This legislation addressed unmet literacy needs of the families of English language learners to improve their educational, social, and economic advancement.

### [RELA: Reaching English Learners Act](#)

Introduced in 117<sup>th</sup> by Rep Langevin (RI – Retired) and by Sen Cortez Masto ([Senate S. 1963](#))

7 cosponsors on the House and 1 on the Senate (Cornyn)

To establish a grant program, under Title II of the Higher Education Act, for preparing future teachers to effectively instruct English learners to achieve at high levels in early childhood education programs and in elementary and secondary schools. Grants must be given to partnerships between (1) certain institutions of higher education, and (2) high-need local educational agencies or high-need early childhood education programs.

Why does TESOL support this legislation? This legislation will address teacher shortages for English language learners.

### [SPELL Act](#)

Supporting Providers of English Language Learning Act

**Introduced in 118<sup>th</sup> by Rep. Espaillat (has 14 cosponsors) H.R. 460**

In 117<sup>th</sup>, introduced by Rep. Langevin (RI – retired)

Allows elementary and secondary school teachers who teach English learners, bilingual learners, or dual language immersion students to receive additional amounts of student loan forgiveness and loan cancellation.

Why does TESOL support this legislation? This legislation will rightly include English Language Education as part of the Higher Education Act for the relief and forgiveness of loans. Currently the HEA only has Mathematics, Science, and Special Education.

## [BEST Act](#)

Biliteracy Education Seal and Teaching Act

Introduced in 117<sup>th</sup> Senate by Schatz (7 cosponsors) and House by Brownly (30 cosponsors)

Directs grants to states to establish, carry-out, or improve Seal of Biliteracy programs, with special attention to English language learners and speakers of any official Native American language.

## Higher Education

### **Establishing a National Strategy for International Education**

Builds off the Joint Statement of Principles (26 July 2021) by the US Departments of Education and State

Promotes number and diversity of educational exchange and partnerships

## Adult Education

### **Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Title II is the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act)**

## All

**Support for Dreamers – a legislative solution to support those who entered as undocumented minors and for whom the US is their home.**

**Support for new Americans**

**Afghan Adjustment Act**