

Serving more than 1 billion people across the globe for whom English is an additional language, the members and supporters of TESOL International Association are dedicated to advancing the English language teaching (ELT) profession and serving multilingual learners of English (MLEs) in all contexts, through the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA).

Multilingualism has often been cited by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a superpower, and in our interconnected world in which communication knows no boundaries, that superpower is indispensable. Educators worldwide play a pivotal role in this process by supporting learners and fostering linguistic, social, and cultural understanding through English for a robust and impactful global citizenship.

For educators, teaching English is more than just transmitting vocabulary and grammar; it is nurturing confidence, fostering empathy, and empowering individuals to engage meaningfully from our communities and across our connected world. Educators inspire learners to embrace diversity, including the invaluable asset of their home languages. In short, we educate, we advocate, we contribute, we build, and we advance for the whole student, no matter their background, experience, education, or identity.

For learners, the journey of becoming multilingual is transformative and propels them toward greater academic, personal, and professional success. The journey broadens their horizons and cultivates adaptability, access, resilience, and empathy, empowering them to navigate diverse cultural contexts with confidence and sensitivity.

As we champion the importance of teaching English as an additional language, let us recognize the invaluable contributions of educators and learners alike in shaping a world where language is not a barrier but a bridge to understanding, cooperation, and progress, embodying the spirit of global citizenship, enriching lives, and forging connections that transcend all boundaries.

Advancing these values, we, and the undersigned, stand for an educational environment where all educators and learners are valued, regardless of age, appearance, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographic location, language background, national origin, political views, race, religion and belief, and sexual orientation.

Our commitment includes advancing DEIA through all we do and as evidenced by:

- Working with fellow educators and advocates across the globe in support of all within the ELT profession and the learners they serve.
- Supporting and encouraging the identities of all ELT practitioners and MLEs.
- Encouraging research and content centered on how DEIA can be demonstrated in practice.
- Strengthening DEIA in our professional development, educational, research, and advocacy resources and practices.

We invite you to learn more about our history of commitment and dedication to ELT professionals, MLEs and their families, and DEIA through our white paper addressing [discrimination in education](#).