

## Position Statement on Immigration Policy and Reform in the United States

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, TESOL International Association's core tenets of respect for diversity, multiculturalism, and collaboration in a global community are more important than ever. As a nation of immigrants, the United States has grown and prospered through the measurable and immeasurable economic, linguistic, and cultural contributions of all immigrants, and continues to do so today. TESOL strongly urges open, respectful, and reasoned debate, free of heated and insensitive rhetoric that will only inflame anti-immigrant sentiment.

TESOL strongly opposes policies that arbitrarily target specific groups of people or create barriers based on race, religion, nationality, native language or language proficiency, refugee status or other demographic factors, focus only on enforcement or punitive measures, or emphasize fear and hostility towards immigrants, refugees, and other nations.

Challenges with the U.S. immigration system will only be addressed effectively through fair, equitable, and realistic solutions that treat all human beings with respect. TESOL supports carefully considered and comprehensive immigration reform proposals in the U.S. that:

- create opportunities for immigrants to learn English and civics by building and enhancing the capacity of current systems and programs;
- enhance resources and opportunities for the linguistic, economic, and civic integration of immigrants into the United States;
- offer protections and opportunities for undocumented students who were brought into the country as minors;
- lower the barriers that unfairly target students and scholars who wish to come to the United States legally for academic and language study;
- provide support for refugees and those fleeing oppression so that they may develop the resilience needed for successful resettlement & integration;
- offer orderly and fair pathways to legal residency and citizenship for all immigrants;
- foster respect and appreciation for the contributions made by all immigrants and those who work with them; and
- respect the human and civil rights of all immigrants, refugees, and their families.

*Approved by the Board of Directors  
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