

REFUGEE & INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EVANGELISM NETWORK

ESL Starter Kit

Introduction

According to the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA), state-collected data for 2005 to 2006 shows more than five million students with limited English proficiency (LEP) enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, and 1,172,569 adults in state-run ESL programs in 2003 to 2004. Public schools are legally required to address the educational needs of non-English-speaking youth, assuring they can achieve academic success. The benefits are many..

Community Participation

- ESL classes prepare students to be fully engaged with their communities. English learners benefit by being informed and achieving a level of inclusiveness that enhances their lives. Communities benefit from an increased level of inclusiveness for all community members.

Family Life

- Families benefit when parents become proficient in English, enabling them to participate in their children's education and social lives. The family benefits when children are not required to act as interpreters for their parents, thereby preserving the family structure and parental roles.

Self-sufficiency

- Non-English speakers benefit by becoming more self-sufficient and reducing the need for translators to assist with daily or personal business. They are able to use public transportation, read street signs and directions, get a driver's license and communicate with the public to make their needs known.

Education and Employment

- ESL students benefit by being able to take advantage of educational and training opportunities, which lead to employment, promotions or higher salaries, all of which benefit families by improving their opportunities and access to benefits such as health care.

Civic Pride and Citizenship

- ESL classes benefit participants and communities by enhancing participants' civic pride. They may become full members of their communities and prepare to enjoy the responsibilities and benefits of citizenship.

Around 2 million children or 5 percent of the total kindergarten-through-12th-grade population have limited proficiency in English, according to the U.S. Department of Education. In seven states including Colorado, New Mexico, New York and Texas, 25 percent or more of the students are not native-English speakers.

If you're a non-native English speaker and you're applying to a college in the United States, chances are you're going to need to take the the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System). In some cases you can take a combination of other standardized tests to demonstrate your language skills. In this article we'll look at the types of scores different college admissions offices require on the TOEFL.

Note that the scores below vary widely, and in general the more selective the college, the higher the bar is for English proficiency. This is partly because the more selective colleges can afford to be more selective (no surprise there), and also because language barriers can be disastrous at the schools with the highest academic expectations. In general, you'll find that you need to be nearly fluent in English to be admitted to the United State's top collages.

If you score a 100 or higher on the internet-based TOEFL, your demonstration of English language skills should be strong enough for admission to any college in the country. A score of 60 or lower is going to restrict your options drastically.

Note that TOEFL scores are generally considered valid for just two years because your language proficiency can change significantly over time.