

# English for Speakers of Other Languages

Transforming Lives, Building Community, Helping Families Excel



**ESOL classes** in community, faith-based and labor organizations provide immigrant learners with a supportive learning environment designed to meet their needs. Most programs run on nights and weekends, and engage learners by using a curriculum that reflects real life. They serve as a stepping stone for GED classes, higher education, and other skills training.

#### Why immigrants study English (Nat. Household Education Survey):

- To feel better about themselves (95%)
- To make it easier to do things on a daily basis (93%)
- To work towards college or vocational school (67%)
- To move up on the job (60%)
- To get U.S. citizenship (45%)
- To help children with schoolwork (44%)

**The opportunity:** *"By investing strategically in programs to help Limited English Proficient populations learn English, foundations can play a central role in helping immigrant families overcome one of the most critical challenges to integrating into their new communities. Improved English skills can lead to increased earnings, greater school readiness for children, improved intergenerational communication in immigrant families, and the confidence to engage in civic life."*

— The Annie E. Casey Foundation

**"Some of my students have been with me for two years and I have seen their lives change and take shape in so many ways. They once felt they couldn't do anything here. Now these students are happy, talkative, and confident in their dreams."**

ESOL Teacher, Allston

**"I can understand the signs now. I can buy things. I also read the newspaper every morning when I wake up. I have to read things two or three times, but I feel good."**

ESOL Student, Jamaica Plain

**English for New Bostonians**

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