



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GUIDE

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS OF ESL:
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE



Let's get to work.

OACES

Office of Adult & Career Education Services
Rochester City School District

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GUIDE

The Office of Adult and Career Education Services (OACES), a department of the Rochester City School District, and the Catholic Family Center (CFC) have collaborated to support various community agencies in their efforts to provide services to new Americans.

This guide was partially funded by the New York State Office of New Americans (ONA). ONA supports programs that encourage new Americans to fully participate in New York State civic and economic life by providing training for English Language Students, helping legal permanent residents navigate the path to citizenship, and encouraging entrepreneurship. ONA is taking steps to protect new Americans as they transition to full participation in New York's communities.



CONTENTS

What is Adult Education?.....	1
Resources for Teachers of English as a Second Language (ESL).....	4
Books	4
Digests	5
On-line Journals and Magazines.....	5
Teacher Websites	5
Grammar and Usage	6
Spelling and Pronunciation	7
Vocabulary and Writing	7
Additional Resources	8
Sources	9
Notes.....	10

WHAT IS ADULT EDUCATION?

Adult Education is instruction, often at no cost, for adult students who want to improve their employability, education, or English language skills. Adult Education programs offer basic reading, writing, math, and problem-solving classes, English language lessons, employment preparation and training, Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) preparation, and other basic educational services for adult students. Adult Education includes Adult Basic Education (ABE), Adult Secondary Education (ASE) as well as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL / ESL).

Adult Education programs are for adults 16 years of age and older who are not in school, who have academic skills below the 12th grade level, and/or who need help learning English. The goal of Adult Education is to help adults reach their full potential as workers, family members, and citizens.

Adult Education is funded in part by the federal and state governments, with local and community support. Many programs receive grant funding from private and corporate sources. The New York State Education Department's (NYSED) Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES) unit oversees Adult Education programs in New York. ACCES works with public schools, community-based organizations, colleges, correctional facilities, and other agencies to provide Adult Education services.

In Rochester, the Office of Adult and Career Education Services (OACES) is a workforce preparation organization that helps adult students learn the skills they need for success in the workplace and outside the classroom.

With unique focus on the education and employment needs of New York State's adult citizens, several vital interests and goals can be best served through:

- Ensuring that the needs of adults and out-of-school youth are met through efficient and effective access to relevant services, programs, and opportunities offered by the NYSED.
- Encouraging full participation of adults with disabilities.

- Enhancing post-secondary transitions by developing the capacity of individuals to engage in post-secondary education leading to high-quality employment opportunities.
- Promoting workforce investment through unified collaboration with the New York State Department of Labor and State and local Workforce Investment Boards to assure that individuals have access to a “one-stop” source for a full range of services leading to high-quality employment opportunities.
- Supporting individuals experiencing poverty and relying on public services to develop their capacity to earn income and develop assets toward greater economic independence.
- Utilizing a more comprehensive and effective representation for adults in coordinating services and program initiatives with New York State agencies such as the Departments of Labor and Health, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), the Office of Children and Family Services, and the State University of New York (SUNY).

There are multiple literacies addressed by Adult Education.

- Survival Literacy
- Oral/Speaking and Written Literacy
- Cultural/Social and Civic Literacy
- Workplace and Employment Literacy
- Health Literacy
- Financial Literacy
- Technological and Digital/Electronic Literacy
- Geographic Literacy
- Media Literacy
- Environmental Literacy
- Scientific Literacy



The importance of each of these literacies in an individual’s life varies based on specific circumstances. They all, however, have the potential to greatly affect the life of every adult and his/her family.

Literacy begins within the family and is reinforced, whether positively or negatively, in subsequent generations. Adult Education seeks to reinforce, promote, and support literacy to help adults reach their full potential as workers, family members, and citizens and in turn continue the cycle of literacy into the future.

Adult Education provides for the Community in numerous ways:

- Adult Education programs benefit businesses, workers, and job seekers. Businesses encourage Adult Education in order to provide and sustain a highly skilled and specialized workforce a workforce with the skills to perform a variety of tasks or workers with “cross-functional” skills. Workers may receive promotions, gain more power in the job market, or become more valuable employees by enrolling in Adult Education programs.
- Adult Education training facilities often house state-of-the-art equipment such as computers and computer-based training equipment.
- Adult Education programs benefit families. Increased literacy and skills translate to a higher earnings potential for the household. Parents’ literacy levels directly correlate to their children’s educational success (according to the National Center for Families Learning).

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Resources for ESL Teachers

A variety of resources is available in print, multimedia (books, digests, journals, magazines), and on-line formats to assist teachers and programs working with adult English language students. Resources are also available to students. Although the following list is not exhaustive, it highlights some of the most useful resources for teachers and students. A wealth of information can be found on grammar and usage, spelling and pronunciation, vocabulary, and writing along with additional resources for the teacher such as lessons, worksheets, teaching principals, and other pertinent information that can lead to better classroom instruction.

Books

Teaching Multilevel Classes in ESL (2nd ed.) Bell, J. (2004). Toronto, Ontario: Pippin Publishing. (www.pippinpub.com/index.asp) The author describes a variety of features that make a class multilevel including differences in language proficiency, educational experience, and situational factors. This book discusses the challenges of planning curriculum and teaching multilevel classes and offers strategies for classroom management and practical activities to use.

Teaching by Principles (2nd ed.) Brown, H.D. (2001). White Plains, NY: Pearson Education. (www.pearsonelt.com) This book discusses teaching practices that are grounded in principles of language learning. The book is written for new teachers and covers topics such as the history of language teaching; cognitive, affective, and linguistic principles of language learning; designing and implementing classroom lessons; and assessing language skills.

Differentiated Instructional Management Chapman, C. & King R. (2008). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press. This is a great book for both novice and experienced educators new to differentiated instruction. This comprehensive text assists the teacher in setting up and maintaining an effective learning environment through the use of differentiated learning and assessment with suggestions that are practical for the classroom.

Digests

Grammar and Its Teaching: Challenging the Myths

(www.cal.org/resources/digest/larsen01.html) In this on-line digest many claims about grammar will be challenged. Many myths are introduced along with a brief description of the truth behind the myth.

Official English and English Plus: An Update

(www.cal.org/resources/digest/lewell01.html) This on-line digest talks about the official English language and the opportunity to become proficient in one or more other languages.

Practical Ideas On Alternative Assessment For ESL Students

(www.cal.org/resources/digest/tannen01.html) This digest gives procedures and techniques on alternative assessment for ESL students which can be used within the context of instruction and incorporated into daily activities of the school or classroom.

On-line Journals and Magazines

Language Learning and Technology (LL&T) (www.llt.msu.edu) A refereed journal that seeks to disseminate research to foreign and second language educators in the United States and around the world on issues related to technology and language education.

TESL-EJ (www.tesl-ej.org) Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language Electronic Journal is an internationally recognized source of ESL and English as a Foreign Language (EFL) information for people in scores of countries, from researchers to classroom teachers.

Teacher Websites

Breaking News English Daily (www.breakingnewsenglish.com) Free world news and current affairs lessons for English language teachers and students. A new, free lesson is posted every day, and there are twenty or more communicative ideas per lesson.

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) (www.cal.org) A private, nonprofit organization which seeks to improve communication through better understanding of language and culture. CAL is the host organization for the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) Clearinghouse on Languages and Linguistics. ESL information and resources from projects such as the Center for Research on Education, Diversity, and Excellence (CREDE) are available at CAL's website.

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) (www.tesol.org)

tesol.org) An international professional association for teachers of English around the world. Benefits of membership include publications, an annual convention, and job placement and career services.

About: English as a Second Language (www.esl.about.com) Lessons are categorized according to skill level (beginning, intermediate, and advanced), and special pages have been developed for ESL teachers. In addition to treating grammar and writing skills, the site contains particularly strong articles on listening skills, vocabulary development, and pronunciation.

ESL Resource Center (www.eslsite.com) Resources and Teaching Ideas. This site was created for ESL teachers and offers plenty of worksheets, tips, and lessons which work well even for those teaching themselves or trying to get ahead.

ESLpoint (www.eslpoint.com) One of the largest on-line resources for students and teachers, ESLpoint provides links to thousands of pages of ESL-related materials, all categorized according to skill and difficulty.

engVid (www.engvid.com) Free English video lessons. Learn English for free with 641 video lessons by experienced native-speaker teachers. New classes are added three times a week, covering grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, etc.

EFL Teaching Recipes (www.teachingrecipes.com) ESL/EFL teachers can share their lessons, including video and images.

Grammar and Usage

Use these websites to boost your grammar knowledge, from verb tenses to noun placement.

Dave's ESL Café (www.eslcafe.com) An on-line bookstore, a discussion center, answers to frequently asked questions, an ESL Help Center, job announcements, a message exchange, and other resources for ESL teachers and students.

Using English (www.usingenglish.com) A handy reference guide to major parts of speech and their usage, with bonus material for ESL instructors.

English Grammar (www.englishgrammar101.com) A wonderful resource for lessons on nouns, pronouns, and capitalization in English grammar.

Spelling and Pronunciation

These websites will help ESL students learn how to speak or spell the English words they've been learning.

Funbrain (www.funbrain.com) This site has a lot of games for kids to learn all kinds of subjects, but ESL students can use it to make their reading lessons more fun. Play the reading games or the Spell Check quiz to practice your spelling.

Brainpop (www.brainpop.com) In traditional, blended, and "flipped" learning settings, BrainPOP supports individual, team, and whole-class learning. At school and in informal learning environments, characters help introduce new topics and illustrate complex concepts.

Vocabulary and Writing

Building a vocabulary is one of the most important parts of mastering a language. These websites help a student start adding words to their **vocabulary and show how to use them verbally and on paper.**

Answers.com's Idiom Dictionary (www.answers.com/library/Idioms) When a phrase doesn't make sense literally, turn to this idiom dictionary to understand what it means.

Learn American English Online (www.learnamericanenglishonline.com) This website has videos, lessons, exercises, quizzes and provides grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation worksheets.

Language Guide (www.languageguide.org) A great resource for interactive, sound-integrated language learning. Practice English vocabulary, the alphabet and numbers. Place your cursor over an image or text to hear it pronounced aloud.

Starfall (www.starfall.com) A free public service to teach children to read with phonics.

English For Everyone (www.englishforeveryone.org) A great resource for printable English worksheets on multiple topics.

Learning Chocolate (www.learningchocolate.com) An interactive vocabulary platform. Place your cursor over an image/text and click on it to hear it pronounced aloud.

Activities for ESL Students (www.a4esl.org) These tests will help students learn grammar, tricky words, vocabulary, and more.

Additional Resources

Catholic Family Center (www.cfcrochester.org) Catholic Family Center is Rochester's largest family service provider, helping nearly 38,000 people each year achieve independence with dignity.

Cultural Orientation Resource (COR) Center (www.culturalorientation.net) The Cultural Orientation Resource Center, focusing on a critical element of refugee resettlement and integration, provides technical assistance regarding the orientation that refugee groups receive about their new lives in the United States, either before their departure for the U.S. or after their arrival.

National Reporting System for Adult Education (www.nrsweb.org) This is the primary website for information on the National Reporting System, an outcome-based reporting system for state administered, federally funded adult education programs. The website includes background on the NRS outcome measures and uniform data collection system, current developments in the system, publications, and access to training on the system (software, on-line modules, print materials, etc.) including the NRS Online Training System.

The Spring Institute (www.springinstitute.org) The Spring Institute provides many useful teaching materials for working with ESL students at various literacy levels. It also provides resources for working with students who have experienced trauma.

TEFL Certification Courses (www.teflonline.com) BridgeTEFL offers six different world-class teacher certification programs. Graduates of the programs are trained in the latest methodologies and coached in the skills necessary to teach English effectively in any country in the world.

USCIS (www.uscis.gov) The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly the INS) website has information about taking the citizenship exam, test questions, and on-line application and change of address forms.

For more in-depth information about adult ESL resources, see the websites for the **Center for Adult English Language Acquisition (CAELA)** at www.cal.org/caela and the **CAELA Network** at www.cal.org/caelanetwork.

Sources

Center for Applied Linguistics
www.cal.org

Open Education Database
www.oedb.org



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oaces.net