Creating Opportunities

ENB believes that every immigrant has the right to learn English and to realize their full potential for themselves, their family, and their community. Toward this vision, ENB creates opportunities for MA immigrants to pursue their educational, economic, and civic aspirations.

INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION

ENB supports high-quality ESOL providers with grants, teacher training, and technical assistance to improve the caliber of instruction and to increase the number of students served. By tailoring curricula and program design, ENB addresses immigrants’ unique backgrounds, experiences, and goals:

- **ESOL Pathways** integrates technology, career, and college prep at all levels (basic literacy to classes for high-skilled immigrants);

- **ESOL for Parents and Caregivers** helps parents improve English skills and engage with their children’s education at home and in school;

- **ESOL for Immigrant Entrepreneurs** provides small business owners and employees business-relevant skills to improve marketing and customer service, access new resources, or secure a loan. Our new English for Cooperative Owners partnership is helping to strengthen a broader solidarity economy based in East Boston.

- **Workplace ESOL** classes improve teamwork, patient/client care, and efficiency, and provide employees with opportunities for advancement. ENB partners with hospitality, retail, and manufacturing firms and has created a virtual format and curriculum to teach English and on-the-job skills for restaurant, grocery workers, and managers.

- **Immigrant Futures in the Food Industry** assists predominantly Latino workers to gain English, digital literacy and occupational skills to enter and advance in manufacturing jobs at partnering businesses.

LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

ENB’s cross-sector leadership expands the circle of stakeholders who invest in ESOL. ENB directs resources where they are most needed and bridges opportunities so that immigrants may fully participate and contribute:
ENB’s statewide English Works Campaign unites ESOL students, businesses, labor, and community leaders to advocate for greater public and private ESOL investment in the immigrant workforce.

The English Works Business Council is ENB’s business partnership program to convene leaders, facilitate collaboration, and share best practices to meet the needs of Massachusetts’ fast-growing immigrant workforce.

Allies for Immigrants ESOL Corps deploys trained volunteers to ENB’s sites, offering conversation circles for waitlisted students, one-on-one tutoring, mock interviews, citizenship prep, and résumé assistance.

ESOL Skills Fairs allow students to meet with vendors to learn about job-training, entrepreneurship, high-demand jobs, and career ladders.

Immigrant Economic Recovery and Resilience Initiative, starting in Winter 2022, will create a specialized network of Career Coaches tailored to diverse limited English speakers to assist them in preparing for employment and small business opportunities.

ENB’s powerful multiplier effect

Socioeconomic research demonstrates that ENB’s work has a positive impact across the Commonwealth and will continue to do so for generations to come.

Earnings for English-speaking immigrants are more than double those of non-English speakers. Income gains for ENB alumnae will positively impact immigrant family economic stability, including for the next generation.

Parents’ involvement in education is the strongest predictor of children’s educational success, and children of ENB alumni are no exception. And when schools can communicate with families, they will serve children better.

A workplace that provides English classes that lead to enhanced customer service, reduced errors, and a better bottom line. ENB’s support for workplace English improves opportunities for immigrants to more fully contribute on the job and to gain promotions.

Our shared history shows that a community, a Commonwealth, and a nation are stronger with a diversity of people, beliefs, ideas, and traditions. Civically engaged alumnae become citizens, voters, and homeowners, actively contributing to the common good.

ENB’s multiplier effect extends across the ESOL field in other ways too. Teachers are trained in best practices. Tutors are deployed where they are most needed. Administrators use ENB data to sharpen outcomes. Policy makers hear from stakeholders. Informed funders maximize their investment.

Social Impact

Whether immigrants are newly arrived or more established, English programs offer them access to information, community, and opportunity. Learning English provides a realistic chance to build a better life and to fulfill dreams. ENB uses its unique position to elevate the critical role of immigrants and the transformative power of English skills in the Commonwealth, and to promote public-private-community collaboration to ensure those dreams are realized.