

# **Accommodations that Can Help ESL and LR Students**

ESL English as Second Language

LR Learning Resource

## **CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATIONS**

- Seat student near a positive role model
- Seat student near the teacher and/or near the board
- Assign a buddy (*speaker of same native language*)
- Stand near the student when giving directions, assigning HW, or presenting lessons
- Seat student in area free of distracting stimuli
- Use collaborative/cooperative groups
- Label materials and important elements in the classroom
- Make sure there is a subject level appropriate word wall (*themed based, academic vocabulary, lesson, frequently used words/terminology*)

## **ASSESSMENT ACCOMMODATIONS**

- Provide extended time, multiple sessions, and frequent breaks during formal and informal assessments
- Administer assessments orally
- Allow the students to use his/her native language when clarifying meaning with an individual proficient in his/her language
- Read questions aloud to students when reading is not being assessed
- Give frequent quizzes rather than long exams
- Use close-ended responses; limiting open-ended responses
- Use rubrics
- Avoid word problems (testing concepts; NOT language)
- Allow open book test/exams
- Allow the use of bilingual dictionaries during tests
- Allow the use of calculators during tests
- Allow take-home tests
- Allow ample wait time after asking questions
- Translate quizzes and/or exams
- Use authentic or qualitative assessments (*learning logs, peer assessments, self-assessments, checklists, portfolios, cloze, etc.*)
- Use graphic organizers/ Thinking Maps as assessment tools

## **STANDARDIZED TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS**

- **New ESL students** can be exempt from testing sessions. This decision needs to be made by the classroom teacher in coordination with the ESL department.
- **New ESL students** are allowed to take only the Math section of the test if language skills are not yet adequate.
- ESL and LR students are allowed to use dictionaries and calculators when testing in a separate environment as stipulated by the specific external test administration procedures
- Provide extended time, multiple sessions, and frequent breaks
- Allow testing in a separate environment
- Allow testing in smaller groups
- Read questions aloud to students when reading is not being assessed
- Explain word meaning when definitions or words in context are not being assessed