

ACCESS Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is *ACCESS* designed for—the ELL specialist or the content area instructor?

A. Since ESL is taught in a variety of settings, the *ACCESS* program was developed to meet a wide range of teaching situations. While it was designed for ESL teachers, it also helps content area teachers who have English language learners in their classes. It can be used in pull-out programs, self-contained classes, and content classes and can be taught by experienced teachers and teachers without ESL training.

Q: What level of student is the program geared towards?

A. The four content area books (American History, English, Science, and Math) are for ELL students at the intermediate and advanced levels. *ACCESS for Newcomers* is for students who have recently immigrated and have little or no English skills.

Q: How does the *ACCESS* program differ from traditional ESL programs?

A. Current ESL programs are literature-based and offer limited content-area features. Due to recent legislation such as No Child Left Behind, English language learners are expected to perform at an academic level similar to native-speaking students despite their limited English language skills. As a result, there is a great need for a program that helps English language learners develop standards-based, content-area knowledge as they are developing their English language skills. This need is at the heart of the *ACCESS* program.

Q: What set of standards provided the basis for the program?

A. The authors looked at the content area and English Language Arts standards of over ten states as well as national standards. They also looked at the tests that students have to take and the textbooks they need to be able to read in each subject area. As a result, *ACCESS* texts focus on the key concepts and vocabulary that students need to know to perform well in each subject area and on state assessments.