International Test of English Proficiency

iTEP...Ready When You Are!

iTEP
Academic

iTEP
International Test of English Proficiency

®

www.iTEPexam.com

The Benefits of iTEP Academic

Simply put, iTEP is the most efficient, secure, accurate, and affordable way for colleges, universities, intensive English programs (IEPs), and other organizations to measure the English proficiency of applicants and students.

- The test can be scheduled on-demand at test centers all over the world or on your premises
- Results are available instantly or in a few days, depending on whether writing and speaking are tested
- Test-taker data, photos, test scores, and speaking and writing samples are available to partner institutions online anytime
- In each section, iTEP assesses linguistic sub-skills, such as understanding the main idea vs. details in the reading section (see score report on page 9)
- The test lasts no more than 90 minutes and costs $119 USD retail for test-takers (special price for institutions)

iTEP International was founded by career international educators. Our decades of experience have prepared us for the unique challenges of the industry today. We developed iTEP to help institutions and students alike.

We use the best technology available, and our live staff is always there to meet the needs of our clients. A test this user-friendly is perfect for admissions, placement, progress checks, and exit exams.

Accepting iTEP results for admissions purposes gives your institution a no-cost marketing boost. You will reach a wider pool of qualified applicants through exposure in iTEP marketing and promotional materials online and at hundreds of test center locations in dozens of countries. The test is experiencing growth in key and emerging markets for international student enrollment, such as Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, India, Iran, Indonesia, Korea, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

Plus, you're in good company. iTEP is used by the national governments in countries such as Colombia, Egypt, India, and Saudi Arabia, as well as numerous professional and academic organizations and institutions.

About iTEP International, the creators of iTEP

The iTEP test has set a new standard for efficiency, accuracy, and flexibility. iTEP can be scheduled on-demand and is scored in five business days or less. It can be taken securely and affordably online at test centers all over the world. iTEP lasts 90 minutes at most, including speaking and writing sections. The detailed iTEP score report reveals strengths and weaknesses in linguistic sub-skills of each tested skill section, making it perfect for admissions, placement, and progress testing. Institutions have instant access to test-taker data, test scores, and the actual writing and speaking samples. iTEP is truly a 21st century exam.

iTEP is recognized by the Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute (ACEI) as an approved internationally accepted English proficiency exam that meets institutional standards. ACCET, the US-based Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training, has recognized iTEP as a sanctioned English assessment exam for validating Intensive English Programs.

The admissions offices of hundreds of educational institutions all over the US, including schools in the California State University system, currently accept iTEP results from international applicants. Governments, businesses, and international organizations from Colombia to Saudi Arabia have also made iTEP their test of choice. iTEP is committed to actively engaging with the international education community through memberships and affiliations with NAFSA, EnglishUSA, TESOL, ACEI, ACCET, and AISAP.

We take pride in maintaining the highest standard of academic rigor, while using innovation to facilitate the access and efficiency that every test-taker and institution deserves.

iTEP Academic Overview

The primary function of iTEP is to assess the English language proficiency of students of English as a second language.

The iTEP Academic exam is commonly used for:

- Making admissions decisions
- Placing students within language programs
- Guiding course instruction and curriculum development
- Evaluating pre- and post-course progress
- Assessing the proficiency of English language teachers
- Determining eligibility for scholarships

There are two versions of iTEP Academic:

1   iTEP Academic-Core assesses grammar, listening, and reading, and is 50 minutes in length, with an additional 10 minutes for pre-test preparation.

2   iTEP Academic-Plus assesses all three Academic-Core skills plus writing and speaking, and is 80 minutes in length, with an additional 10 minutes for pre-test preparation.

Test Format & Delivery

Online iTEP exams are delivered via the internet and must be administered at a secure location or a certified iTEP test center. The examinee completes the test in the following manner:

- During the grammar, listening, and reading sections, the examinee clicks on one of four answer choices for each question
- Writing samples are typed directly into a text-entry field
- Speaking samples are recorded with a headset and microphone at the examinee's computer

iTEP Academic-Core is also available in a paper-based format.

Test Content

In each section, examinees will encounter content and questions targeted to varying levels of proficiency.

A   Grammar (Structure) — 10 minutes/ two parts

Part 1   Thirteen fill-in-the-blank, multiple-choice questions testing the examinee's familiarity with a key feature of English structure; questions range from beginner to advanced.

Part 2   Twelve multiple-choice questions where the examinee selects the part of speech with incorrect English structure; questions range from elementary to advanced.

B   Listening — 20 minutes/ three parts

Part 1   Four high-beginning to low-intermediate level short conversations of two to three sentences, each followed by one multiple-choice question.

Part 2   One two-to three-minute intermediate level conversation, followed by four multiple-choice questions.

Part 3   One four-minute upper level lecture, followed by six multiple-choice questions.

C   Reading — 20 minutes/ two parts

Part 1   One intermediate level passage of about 250 words in length, followed by four multiple-choice questions.

Part 2   One upper level paragraph of about 450 words in length, followed by six multiple-choice questions.

D   Writing — 25 minutes/ two parts

Part 1   The examinee is given five minutes to write a 50-75 word note on a supplied topic, geared to the low-intermediate level.

Part 2   The examinee is given 20 minutes to write a 175-225 word piece expressing and supporting his or her opinion on an upper level written topic.

E   Speaking — 5 minutes/ two parts (plus one minute warm-up section)

Part 1   The examinee hears and reads a short question geared to low-intermediate level, then has 30 seconds to prepare a spoken response and 45 seconds to speak.

Part 2   The examinee hears a brief upper level statement presenting two sides of an issue, then is asked to express his or her thoughts on the topic, with 45 seconds to prepare and 60 seconds to speak.

Scoring/Grading

The test will determine an overall proficiency level from 0 (Beginner) to 6 (Mastery), as well as individual proficiency levels from 0 to 6 for each of the skills tested. Sub-skill scores are expressed as well, in order to give a more detailed picture of the examinee's skill level. The overall scores combine the results of the skill sections, and for greater accuracy, they are expressed to one decimal point (from 0.0 to 6.0). The test is graded as follows:

- The grammar, listening, and reading sections are scored automatically by the computer.
- Each test section is weighed equally, and there is no penalty in the multiple-choice sections for guessing or incorrect answers.
- The writing and speaking sections are evaluated by native English-speaking, ESL-trained professionals, according to a standardized scoring rubric.
- The official score report presents an individual's scoring information in both tabular and graphical formats.
- The graphical format, or skill profile, is particularly useful for displaying an examinee's strengths and weaknesses in each of the skills evaluated by the test.

Levels

The proficiency levels identified by the test may be expressed briefly as follows:

LEVEL 5.5-6.0: MASTERY

LEVEL 4.5-5.4: ADVANCED

LEVEL 3.5-4.4: UPPER INTERMEDIATE

LEVEL 2.5-3.4: INTERMEDIATE

LEVEL 2.0-2.4: ELEMENTARY

LEVEL 0.0-1.9: BEGINNER

iTEP Academic-Plus – TOEFL® IBT Comparison Chart

	iTEP Academic-Plus	TOEFL® IBT
Total Exam Time	• 90 minutes (all five sections)	• 240 minutes (all four sections)
Skills Assessed	• Five sections/five skills directly evaluated: grammar, listening, reading, writing, speaking	• Four sections/four skills directly evaluated: listening, reading, writing, and speaking • Grammar indirectly tested
Target Age Group	• Graduating high school to university level students	• University level students
Difficulty Level Tested	• Tests at different difficulty levels, from beginner to mastery	• Tests at one level of difficulty, from upper intermediate to advanced
Purpose	• Evaluate students' English ability for college and university admission purposes • Place students in English language programs • Perform pre- and post-course assessment • Qualify candidates for scholarships and exchange program acceptance • Evaluate language proficiency for placement	• Evaluate students' English ability for college and university admission purposes • Place students in English language programs • Evaluate language proficiency for placement and hiring (business and organizations)
Price	• $119 (global retail price for applicants); significant institutional discounts	• $160-$250 (variance by country/location)
Test Delivery Format	• Internet	• Internet
Security	Full security measures in place: • Tests can only be administered at secured Certified iTEP Test Centers • Certified proctors on-site; ensure that photo IDs match each test-taker • Item bank feature ensures that no test is replicated and that test items are secure by streaming the content live during the exam • FotoSure software photographs the test-taker throughout the exam	Full security measures in place: • Tests can only be administered at secured ETS Certified Test Centers • Certified administrators on-site; ensure that photo IDs match each test-taker
Grading	• Multiple-choice sections (grammar, listening and reading) evaluated by iTEP software • Writing and speaking sections evaluated by iTEP graders-native English speaking ESL-trained professionals	• ETS graders evaluate the tests. Scores normally come from ETS, but some employers and schools provide the results
Scoring	• Overall score ranges from 0 to 6, with .1 level increments, as well as individual section scores, based on standardized rubric • Scored linguistic sub-skill sections give a more detailed picture of skill level	• Overall score ranges from 0 to 120, as well as individual section scores, based on standardized rubric
Scheduling	• On-demand scheduling within three days of contacting a Certified iTEP Test Center	• Test dates are scheduled in advance by ETS
Results Delivery Time	• Results returned in five business days or less	• Results returned within eight days
Additional iTEP Benefits	• iTEP partners can get immediate online access to all test results, as well as access to the submitted writing and speaking portions • iTEP available in customized and modularized versions • iTEP partners can utilize their premises to become iTEP test centers and administer the exam on-site	

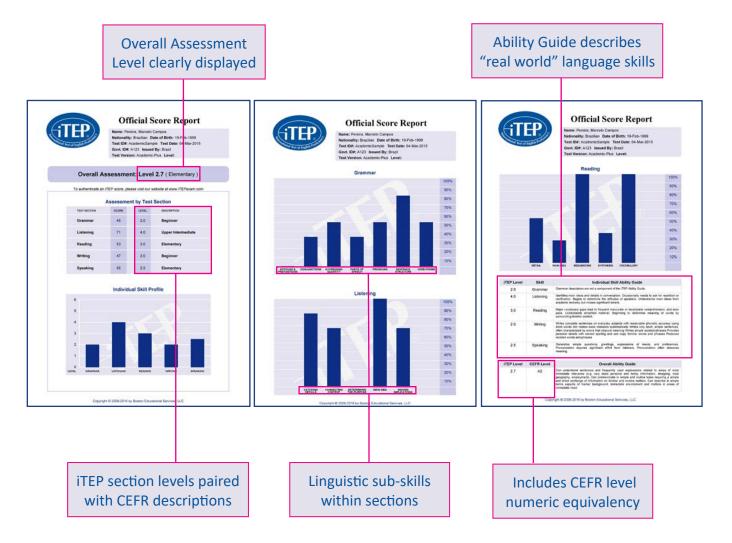# iTEP Academic-Plus – IELTS™ Comparison Chart

	iTEP Academic-Plus	IELTS™ (Academic)
Total Exam Time	• 90 minutes (all five sections)	• 174 minutes (all four sections)
Skills Assessed	• Five sections/five skills directly evaluated: grammar, listening, reading, writing, speaking	• Four sections/four skills directly evaluated: listening, reading, writing, speaking (face-to-face interview; conducted on different day)
Target Age Group	• Graduating high school to university level students	• Graduating high school to university level students
Difficulty Level Tested	• Tests at different difficulty levels, from beginner to mastery	• Tests at one level of difficulty, from upper intermediate to advanced
Purpose	• Evaluate students' English ability for college and university admission purposes • Place students in English language programs • Perform pre- and post-course assessment • Qualify candidates for scholarships and exchange program acceptance • Evaluate language proficiency for placement	• Evaluate students' English ability for college and university admission purposes • Place students in English language programs • Perform pre- and post-course assessment • Qualify candidates for scholarships and exchange program acceptance • Evaluate language proficiency for placement
Price	• $119 (global retail price for applicants); significant institutional discounts	• $185 (variance by country/location)
Test Delivery Format	• Internet	• Paper, plus face-to-face interview
Security	Full security measures in place: • Tests can only be administered at secured Certified iTEP Test Centers • Certified proctors on-site; ensure that photo IDs match each test-taker • Item bank feature ensures that no test is replicated and that test items are secure by streaming the content live during the exam • FotoSure software photographs the test-taker throughout the exam	Full security measures in place: • Tests can only be administered at secured IELTS Certified Test Centers • Certified administrators on-site; ensure that photo IDs match each test-taker
Grading	• Multiple-choice sections (grammar, listening and reading) evaluated by iTEP software • Writing and speaking sections evaluated by iTEP graders-native English speaking ESL-trained professionals	• Scored by IELTS. Test Centers provide scores to test-takers
Scoring	• Overall score ranges from 0 to 6, with .1 level increments, as well as individual section scores, based on standardized rubric • Scored linguistic sub-skill sections give a more detailed picture of skill level	• Overall score ranges from 1 to 9, as well as individual section scores, based on standardized rubric
Scheduling	• On-demand scheduling within three days of contacting a Certified iTEP Test Center	• Approx. 48 fixed test dates per year; test must be • scheduled at least two weeks in advance
Results Delivery Time	• Results returned in five business days or less	• Results usually returned 13 days after test
Additional iTEP Benefits	• iTEP partners can get immediate online access to all test results, as well as access to the submitted writing and speaking portions • iTEP available in customized and modularized versions • iTEP partners can utilize their premises to become iTEP test centers and administer the exam on-site	

iTEP Score Report

This is an example of an official iTEP score report. The iTEP Official Score Reports are designed to easily compare candidates and track improvements. In addition to an overall score, linguistic sub-skills within each tested section are expressed in order to give a more detailed picture of the examinee's skills. Scores are aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) and evaluate expected 'real world' language skills, based on the examinee's level.

Overall Assessment Level clearly displayed

Ability Guide describes "real world" language skills

iTEP section levels paired with CEFR descriptions

Linguistic sub-skills within sections

Includes CEFR level numeric equivalency

iTEP Academic Score Equivalencies

If you are familiar with other language assessment tools on the market, you can see how iTEP's scores translate, based on each test's CEFR alignment. Our scores reflect a wide range of levels and make it easy to categorize and group candidates.

iTEP Academic	TOEFL® IBT	IELTS™	PTE General	PTE Academic
5.5 - 6.0	115 - 120	9 - 8	Level 5 - Level 4	81 - 90
5.0 - 5.4	110 - 114			76 - 80
4.5 - 4.9	99 - 109	7.5	Level 3	68 - 75
4.0 - 4.4	87 - 98	7		59 - 67
3.5 - 3.9	57 - 86	5.5 - 6.5	Level 2	43 - 58
3.0 - 3.4	44 - 56	5	Level 1	36 - 42
2.5 - 2.9	32 - 43	4.5		30 - 35
2.0 - 2.4	26 - 31	4		26 - 29
1.5 - 1.9	21 - 25	3		22 - 25
1.0 - 1.4	14 - 20	2		18 - 21
0.5 - 0.9	7 - 13	1		14 - 17
0.0 - 0.4	0 - 6	0		10 - 13

iTEP Ability Guide - Academic

Use this table to see at a glance how well an individual can use English to communicate "in the real world" at each of iTEP's levels.

iTEP	CEFR	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
6.0 ↑ 5.5	**C2** MASTERY	• Comprehends overall meaning and virtually all details of lectures on diverse topics • Understands English spoken in a variety of non-native accents	• Comprehends virtually all aspects of a wide variety of academic material for non-specialists • Reads at near-native speed • Rarely requires use of dictionary	• Writes complex documents such as research reports using appropriate style and vocabulary • Grammar and orthographic accuracy is at near-native level • Expresses complex relationships between ideas	• Communicates accurately and effectively on practically all academic and social topics in culturally appropriate ways • Pronunciation is close to that of native speakers
5.4 ↑ 4.5	**C1** ADVANCED	• Identifies attitude and purpose of speakers • Grasps main ideas and the majority of supporting details from academic lectures • Is challenged by complex social and cultural references	• Understands main ideas and most of the details of academic texts, journal articles, and abstracts • Requires little extra reading time	• Vocabulary is strong in specialty • Satisfies demands of most general academic tasks with occasional grammar and style mistakes • Exhibits fairly good organization and development	• Vocabulary is strong in specialty • Satisfies demands of most general academic tasks with occasional grammar and style mistakes • Exhibits fairly good organization and development
4.4 ↑ 3.5	**B2** UPPER INTERMEDIATE	• Identifies main ideas and details in conversation • Occasionally needs to ask for repetition or clarification • Begins to determine the attitudes of speakers • Understands main ideas from academic lectures, but misses significant details	• Utilizes contextual and syntactic clues to interpret meaning of complex sentences and new vocabulary • Gathers most main ideas from textbooks and articles, but has an uneven grasp of details • Misinterprets some abstract content and cultural references	• Writes reasonably coherent essays on familiar topics, but with some grammatical weakness • Does not have a complete grasp of stylistic features • Vocabulary frequently lacks precision and sophistication	• Begins to express abstract concepts, especially on familiar topics • Fluency is occasionally hampered by gaps in vocabulary and grammar • Expresses viewpoints in fairly long stretches of discourse • Sometimes is asked to repeat words or phrases
3.4 ↑ 2.5	**B1** INTERMEDIATE	• Grasps the general outline of topics discussed in an academic setting • Unfamiliarity with complex structures and higher-level vocabulary leaves major gaps in understanding	• Limited vocabulary impedes speed • Grasps the gist of material on familiar subjects, and identifies some significant details • Follows step-by-step instructions in exams, labs, and assignments	• Communicates basic ideas, but with weak organizational structure and grammatical mistakes that sometimes hinder understanding • Expresses him/herself with some circumlocution on topics such as family, hobbies, work, etc.	• Manages day-to-day communications with peers and instructors, marked by frequent grammar and vocabulary errors • Pronunciation requires significant effort from listeners
2.4 ↑ 2.0	**A2** ELEMENTARY	• Maintains comprehension during conversations on familiar topics • Relies heavily on non-verbal cues and repetition • Understands very basic exchanges when spoken slowly using simple vocabulary	• Major vocabulary gaps lead to frequently inaccurate or incomplete comprehension, and slow pace • Understands simplified material • Begins to determine the meaning of words by familiar surrounding context	• Limited vocabulary results in repetitive style and simple sentences • Considerable effort required by the reader to identify intended meaning • Uses only basic vocabulary and simple grammatical structures	• Generates simple questions, greetings, expressions of needs, and preferences • Pronunciation requires significant effort from listeners • Pronunciation often obscures meaning
1.9 ↑ 0	**A1** BEGINNER	• Understands simple greetings, statements, and questions when spoken with extra clarity • Follows simple familiar instructions • Frequently requires repetition for comprehension • Understands a few isolated words or phrases spoken slowly	• Comprehends only highly simplified phrases or sentences • Recognizes familiar cohesive devices and basic pronouns • Demonstrates understanding of a few simple grammatical and lexical structures • Recognizes the alphabet and isolated words	• Writes only short, simple sentences, often characterized by errors that obscure meaning • Provides personal details with correct spelling and can copy familiar words and phrases • Produces isolated words and phrases	• Capable of short, simple presentation on familiar topic • Responds to simple questions • Speech is marked with non-native stress and intonation patterns • Communication is understood for short utterances • Pauses, false starts, and reformulation are common • Communicates with single words and short phrases at "survival level" • Intense listener effort required • Produces a few isolated words and phrases • Pronounciation is mostly unintelligible

iTEP Academic Case Studies

iTEP vs. In-House English Testing

American Language Academy President Yuni Nguyen found that developing an in-house test was ultimately more costly than using an external test like iTEP. Some considerations were: creating multiple forms of the test to avoid repetition, the costs of printing test materials, and the time it took to administer and grade the test. After analyzing the financial and temporal costs of their own test, the American Language Academy began using iTEP and found that it immediately saved them money.

"iTEP is quick and flexible to administer, which keeps costs low. iTEP also offers superior customer service."

– Yuni Nguyen, President, American Language Academy, Greensboro, NC

See full report at www.iTEPexam.com/IEPdata

Colombian Government Chooses iTEP Exam to Help Improve Nationwide English Proficiency

In 2009, the Colombian Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism and the Colombian Department of Education joined forces to devise an initiative aimed at attracting foreign investment into Colombia. By evaluating and improving the English proficiency levels of Colombian professionals, the government took one step closer to making Colombia a prime destination for foreign investment particularly in the customer service and call center industries. The name chosen for this English improvement initiative was "ISPEAK".

Colombian Minister of Commerce Luis Guillermo Plata was one of several high-ranking officials who took the iTEP exam to become more familiar with its many advantages as an English assessment tool.

See full report at www.iTEPexam.com/ColombianMOC

Praise for iTEP Academic

"iTEP Academic is a wonderful alternative to other English language proficiency tests. The exam offers applicants a lower cost assessment and faster score reporting. These same advantages can benefit any Intensive English Program. iTEP makes an ideal assessment tool to measure ongoing progress, and a viable exit examination, measuring proficiency of students who have completed your program."

— Paul Hofmann, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for International Affairs, California State University, Fresno, CA

"We administer ITEP on campus and have found it efficient and easy to use. We have found it to be an accurate placement tool when used with our other proficiency assessments. I like that we receive quick scores and reports with useful feedback that we make available to students."

— Rebecca Lawrence, Lead Teacher, Massachusetts International Academy, MA

"In our experience, iTEP provides an accurate and reliable assessment of non-native students' ability to function in an English-speaking educational environment. We expect that as it is introduced to additional institutions, it will soon be widely recognized throughout the United States."

— Denise Kinsella, Associate Dean of International Education, Santa Monica College, CA

iTEP Product List

	iTEP Academic	iTEP SLATE	iTEP Conversation	iTEP Hospitality Au Pair & Intern	iTEP Placement	iTEP Business
Grammar	• Core • Plus	• Core • Plus	• Indirect	• Indirect	• Core • Plus	• Core • Plus
Listening	• Core • Plus	• Core • Plus	• Indirect	• Hospitality • Au Pair • Intern	• Core • Plus	• Core • Plus
Vocabulary	• Indirect	• Indirect	• Indirect	• Indirect	• Core • Plus	• Indirect
Reading	• Core • Plus	• Core • Plus	• Indirect		• Core • Plus	• Core • Plus
Writing	• Plus	• Plus			• Plus	• Plus
Speaking	• Plus	• Plus	• Directly assessed	• Hospitality • Au Pair • Intern	• Plus	• Plus
Delivery Method	• Core: online and paper-based • Plus: online only	• Core: online and paper-based • Plus: online only	• Online	• Online	• Core: online and paper-based • Plus: online only	• Core: online and paper-based • Plus: online only
Exam Duration	• Core: 60 min • Plus: 90 min	• Core: 60 min • Plus: 90 min	• 30 minutes	• 30 minutes	• Core: apx. 60 min • Plus: apx. 90 min	• Core: 60 min • Plus: 90 min
Results Delivery	• Core: immediate • Plus: five days or less (expedited available)	• Core: immediate • Plus: five days or less (expedited available)	• Five days or less	• Five days or less	• Core: immediate • Plus: five days or less (expedited available)	• Core: immediate • Plus: five days or less (expedited available)
Users	• College and University • English language programs • Intensive English Programs (IEPs)	• High schools • Boarding schoos • Junior high schools • English language programs	• Classrooms • Businesses • Service industry	• Hotels/resorts • Cruise lines • Restaurants • Au pair programs • J1 intern programs • Service industry	• English language programs • Intensive English Programs (IEPs)	• Business • Government agencies • NGOs
Purposes	• College and university admissions • English language program placement • Pre-and post-course assessment • Determing eligibility for scholarships • English teacher certification	• Boarding, middle, & high school admissions • English language program • Pre-and post- course assessment • Determining elegibility for exchange programs	• Classroom assessment & curriculum development • Evaluating return on investment (ROI) of English training programs • Screening job applicants • Screening visa applicants for US program placement	• Screening and placement of job applicants (hospitality/service industry specific) • Screening J1 applicants for au pair and intern program placement • Qualifying employees for assignments requiring English	• English language program placement • Aligning test to student learning outcomes (SLOs) • Accurately assess students at low (CEFR A1-A2) levels	• Evaluating return on investment (ROI) of English training programs • Screening job applicants • Placement of new hires • Qualifying employees for assignments requiring English

Modularized and customized versions of all iTEP tests are also available, but are not included.

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English Language Assessment in 90 Minutes or Less!

iTEP — The Ideal Internet-Based English Language Evaluation Tool For:

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- Government Agencies
- Colleges and Universities
- Intensive English Programs (IEPs)
- Middle Schools
- Boarding Schools & High Schools

iTEP
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