



July 27, 2021

[EnglishUSA](#) is encouraged by the July 26th [joint statement](#) released by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, *Reengaging the World to Make the United States Stronger at Home: A Renewed U.S. Commitment to International Education*. The live announcement can be found [here](#).

It strongly affirms the value and importance of international education in today's interconnected world. It identifies why a renewed commitment to international education is necessary: international education benefits U.S. students and communities; strengthens U.S. higher education; supports our competitive edge through research and innovation; and enhances national security and the economy.

Post-secondary accredited English language programs play a crucial role in international education. Some serve as an access point into the higher education system for the many international students who want to improve their English skills before entering a degree program; others offer shorter-term opportunities to learn English and engage with other students on campuses and with residents in the communities.

English language programs help students to develop cross-cultural communication skills and enhance self-awareness and understanding of diverse perspectives. These experiences are critical to advancing the mutual understanding that enhances security and fosters the collaboration necessary for a global economy to succeed. EnglishUSA agrees that a renewed commitment and a coordinated national strategy to international education are vital to ensure that the United States remains a global leader and top study destination for students around the globe. We urge the Departments of State and Education to include EnglishUSA in the conversation to work collaboratively toward creating concrete programs and action plans that include the English language training component of many international students on their path to meet their academic, professional, or personal goals.

According to Cheryl Delk-Le Good, Executive Director, speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors, "EnglishUSA looks forward to playing an active role alongside other industry leaders and U.S. government agencies in crafting these plans, particularly as they relate to the needs of international students who plan to improve their opportunities through English language study in the U.S."

EnglishUSA is the largest professional non-profit association of over 200 high quality, accredited postsecondary English language programs—including intensive English programs and pathway programs. EnglishUSA's mission is to represent and support English language programs. To learn more visit <http://www.englishusa.org>. For more information contact Cheryl Delk-Le Good at 404-567-6875 or execdirector@englishusa.org.