

## You Haven't Joined a NYS TESOL SIG Yet?

by Karen Gilmartin

We all know that the field of ESL is still evolving. As the world changes, we change with it in the commitment of bringing the best education to our students in ESL and EFL and in adult, primary, and secondary education.

Get more from your membership by joining a Special Interest Group. Why are these groups so important in today's education environment? As former TESOL International president Yilin Sun wrote:

Over the last 50 years, and especially during the last 20 years, the ELT field has seen a dramatic change in our views of the role of English language teaching. English educators have realized that many language learners know more than two languages. English is not simply their second language anymore. With this awareness, acronyms for the field have also evolved—from TESL (teaching English to second language learners) to TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages), from Western English to English as an international language (EIL). (Sun, 2014)

As time marches on, the challenges multiply: the list of responsibilities for instructors has increased, technology in the classroom brings new opportunities, and techniques and tools for special topics like business and academics are needed and devised.

What's new? New specialties, innovative methods, and added areas of concern arise constantly in this ever-changing trade. Right now, some of our colleagues are working to develop a new SIG. Their goal is to have discussions and offer professional development related to effective tools and techniques for rookie instructors.

There is so much more to explore and learn! Grow with your fellow NYS TESOLers by joining—or creating—a SIG. Administered by the outreach division of the Executive Board, SIG group events bring you more for your membership dollar. The current NYS TESOL SIGs are: Adult Education, Applied Linguistics, Bilingual Education, Elementary Education, Higher Education, Secondary Education, Special Education, Teacher Education, and Teaching English Internationally.

New SIG applications are processed through the Outreach Board and approved by the Executive Board. Anyone looking to organize a new interest group can contact the vice president of outreach or any EB member. We welcome your participation!

### References

Sun, Y. (2014). Eight major trends in the global ELT field. Retrieved from <http://blog.tesol.org/8-major-trends-in-the-global-elt-field/>

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