

What government leaders need to know?

In today's global and AI-enabled economy, English proficiency underpins productivity, trust and international competitiveness. Findings from the **TOEIC Global English Skills Report** show that employers increasingly view English as a foundational capability that requires deliberate policy attention.

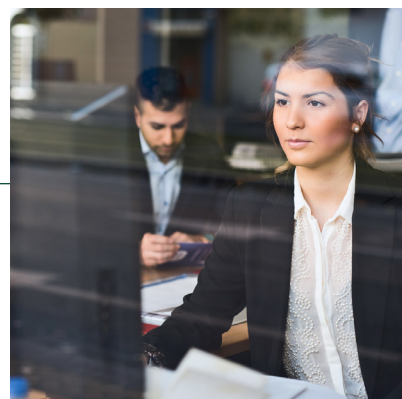
English proficiency is now an essential workforce skill

90%

of employers say English proficiency is critical to organizational success

92%

say English proficiency is more important today than it was five years ago



What this means for governments?

The growing importance of English skills in the workplace signals that existing education policies are no longer sufficient. English skills should be measured and benchmarked like other vital workforce skills, for example, digital literacy and technical skills.

English proficiency strengthens business outcomes

Government action matters. In countries where English proficiency is required to complete secondary education, employers report stronger business outcomes:

83%

satisfaction with employees' ability to build new business partnerships (vs. 76% in countries with no mandate)

13%

points lower likelihood of frequent trust erosion caused by communication issues

What this means for governments?

These findings shows how English skills can strengthen business confidence and trust. It's a call to action for governments to review their English proficiency mandates.



English proficiency enables AI readiness

- **81%** of employers say AI tools increase the need for English proficiency
- About **6 in 10** employers say AI cannot compensate for low English skills across reading, writing, speaking and listening
- **9 in 10** say English skills are required to use AI tools effectively, including interfaces, prompts and evaluation

• What this means for governments?

These insights challenge the assumption that AI will solve language gaps. In fact, English proficiency is considered a prerequisite for successful AI adoption. Governments should respond with coordinated strategies across English and AI policy.

English proficiency matters before graduation

Government action matters. In countries where English proficiency is required to complete secondary education, employers report stronger business outcomes:

91% of employers seek to hire university graduates with English language skills

89% say English assessment scores taken during university are valuable when screening job candidates

• What this means for governments?

Governments should focus on benchmarking English proficiency during secondary and tertiary education to better align education systems with employer needs.

Key policy takeaways:

For governments, these findings support:

- National standards, benchmarks or graduation requirements
- Alignment between education systems and labor market demand
- Coordinated workforce, education, and AI strategies

Discover English as a strategic policy lever

Explore how English proficiency supports workforce readiness, AI adoption and economic growth. Scan the QR code to download the full report.

