



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
ESEA Title III MLP Coordinators  
District Instructional Leaders  
Principals

**FROM:** Dr. Sarah Longshore  
Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability

**DATE:** June 7, 2022

**RE:** Multilingual Learner Program Terminology

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is taking an asset-based approach by referring to English learners (ELs) as multilingual learners (MLs). A ML brings diverse cultural identities and new perspectives to strengthen classrooms and communities. MLs achieve the South Carolina College and Career Readiness Standards while navigating between native and instructional languages. MLs provide the global perspective that is needed of the South Carolina Graduate and emphasize the advantages of bi-/multilingualism to honor students' identities as strengths rather than deficits.

The SCDE has updated additional Title III specific terminology to reflect the asset-based belief system. Previously referred to as the English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program, the English language acquisition or development program in South Carolina will be referred to as the Multilingual Learner Program (MLP). ESOL teachers will now be referred to as Multilingual Learner Program Specialists (MLPS). The SCDE is aware that this change from teacher to specialist may not be possible for a variety of reasons. It is acceptable to instead use MLP Teacher to embody the asset-based view of this essential role. Review the [SCDE Title III Terminology](#) to learn more about MLP asset-based terminology.

Table 1. *Title III Program Terminology Crosswalk*

<b>Term and Acronym</b>	<b>Previously Known As</b>
Multilingual Learner Program (MLP)	English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

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Multilingual Learner (ML)	English Learner (EL)
Multilingual Learner with a Disability (MLWD)	Dually Identified English Learner with a Disability
Multilingual Learner Program Coordinator (MLPC)	ESOL Coordinator
Multilingual Learner Program Specialist (MLPS) or Multilingual Learner Program Teacher (MLP Teacher)	ESOL Teacher
Multilingual Learner Program Team (MLPT)	EL Team

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The Title III program office recognizes that various terms are used to describe MLs. While shifting to this language is the decision of the local education agency (LEA), the Title III program office encourages LEAs to join the SCDE in using these asset-based terms. The Title III, Part A Multilingual Learner and Immigrant Children and Youth Programs in South Carolina will continue to grow and reflect these values to increase opportunities for multilingual learners and immigrant children and youth.

For more information or questions, please contact Susan Murphy, [SMurphy@ed.sc.gov](mailto:SMurphy@ed.sc.gov) or Elizabeth Supan, [ESupan@ed.sc.gov](mailto:ESupan@ed.sc.gov), in the Office of Federal and State Accountability.