

Multilingual Learner Program Terminology

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The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) envisions all students graduating ready for college, careers, and citizenship. Districts are expected to support this goal with personalized, digital learning in safe environments that reflect the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate—including embracing a global perspective.

SCDE adopts an asset-based approach by recognizing English learners as multilingual learners (MLs), valuing their cultural identities and contributions. MLs meet College and Career Readiness Standards while navigating multiple languages, exemplifying the benefits of bi-/multilingualism.

South Carolina's English acquisition program is now the Multilingual Learner Program (MLP), formerly ESOL. Educators are encouraged to adopt titles like Multilingual Learner Program Specialist (MLPS) or MLP Teacher to reflect this inclusive view. While local education agencies (LEAs) may use varying terminology, the SCDE encourages consistent use of asset-based language and practices aligned with the MLP's expanding vision.

Term	Definition
Multilingual Learner Program (MLP)	South Carolina's English language development (ELD) program.
Multilingual Learner (ML)	A student who met the identification criteria and is placed in the MLP.
Multilingual Learner with a disability (MLWD)	A student who met the identification criteria and is placed in the MLP and has an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
Multilingual Learner Program Coordinator (MLPC)	A district coordinator who is dedicated to the MLP.
Multilingual Learner Program Specialist (MLPS)	An MLP educator in schools dedicated to working with MLs as a language development specialist.
Multilingual Learner Program Team (MLPT)	State, district, and school stakeholders involved in an ML's education and success.