

Table I.1 Definitions of Different Types of Language Learners

Name of Learner	Home Language	Eligibility for English Language Services
Dual language learner	Student (birth to prekindergarten) whose parent or guardian reports speaking one or more languages other than English at home; student is acquiring home language proficiency while simultaneously learning English	May or may not qualify for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services
English learner or emergent bilingual	Student whose parent or guardian reports speaking one or more languages other than English at home	Qualifies for ESOL services
Former EL	Student whose parent or guardian reports speaking one or more languages other than English at home	Qualified for and may have received ESOL services in the past and has since tested out of the need for services
Ever EL	Current ELs and Former ELs as a group	Qualified for and may or may not have received or be receiving ESOL services
Heritage language learner	Student who is studying a language that he or she has cultural proficiency in or a cultural connection to	May or may not have received or be receiving ESOL services
Multilingual learner	Student whose parent or guardian reports speaking one or more languages other than English at home	May or may not qualify for ESOL services
Never EL	Student who reports speaking one or more languages other than English at home	Did not qualify for ESOL services due to linguistic proficiency in English

Source: Adapted from Kieffer and Thompson, 2018.