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Accelerating English Learner Progress by Improving Reclassification

Technical Appendix

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Appendix A. Survey Methods

PPIC developed survey questions about English Learner reclassification policy with sections for each of the four reclassification criteria, as well as a section on monitoring and administrative practices for reclassification. Survey development was supported by conversations with relevant English Learner stakeholders, including policymakers and advocates. We used Qualtrics to design the survey.

We distributed the survey to all California Title III coordinators – those who manage funds allocated by the federal government for the education of English Learners in each Local Education Agency – using the publicly available list of emails posted online by the California Department of Education. The California Department of Education staff also sent an email to all Title III coordinators, encouraging them to complete the survey.

Title III coordinators may hold a variety of job titles in their respective districts; most commonly, these individuals are full-time EL Coordinators, but, in smaller districts, these individuals may serve as Director of Academic Affairs, Principal, or even Superintendent. In addition, smaller districts or charter schools may pool resources and share a Title III coordinator. Therefore, the 895 individual coordinators we contacted represent 1,027 Local Education Agencies.

All Title III coordinators were contacted at their published email address in early December 2025 with a personalized link to complete the survey themselves or forward it to the “person most knowledgeable about district reclassification policies.” If an email bounced back, the authors attempted to identify an alternate staff member in a similar role at the school district and emailed them instead. Authors also sent reminders about incomplete survey responses throughout December, including personalized outreach to the largest 25 districts in the state. We closed the survey to respondents in early January 2026. Those who completed the survey received a \$40 Amazon gift card to thank them for their time.

We received 282 responses where at least 60 percent of questions were answered. These responses represent 342 Local Education Agencies, including 15 of the top 25 LEAs by size. Our respondents represent 33 percent of the LEAs that received Title III dollars in California in 2024-25. Our respondents also serve 40 percent of the state’s TK-12 students and 42 percent of the state’s English Learner students. Table 1 shows that respondents closely match the universe of Title III LEAs on race/ethnicity, English Learner status, and socioeconomic disadvantage, though respondents overrepresent unified districts and underrepresent elementary districts. To account for this variation in response rates, all survey statistics in this technical report are weighted using survey weights calculated from a logistic regression of enrollment, district type, percent English Learner, percent socioeconomically disadvantaged, and percent in each racial/ethnic group listed Table A1.

Occasionally, respondents gave incomplete or confusing answers to key survey questions. In those rare cases, authors used the email addresses provided by respondents upon survey completion to follow up and clarify the response. In addition, some respondents provided inconsistent answers (e.g., indicating that they did not use an assessment for reclassification, then, when asked about what they used instead, provided the name of an assessment). In these occasional cases, authors used their judgement to recode answers.

TABLE A1

Respondents closely match Title III-receiving Local Education Agencies statewide.

	Responding LEAs (No Survey Weights)	Responding LEAs (With Survey Weights)	Title III LEAs
Enrollment	6,802	4,960	5,022
Distribution of LEA type (%)			
Elementary	22.29	28.75	28.78
High	7.31	5.72	5.65
Unified	34.50	28.63	28.04
Charter Schools	34.31	34.78	35.41
Percent English Learner	18.24	18.77	18.49
Percent socioeconomically disadvantaged	65.49	64.72	64.85
Distribution of race/ethnicity (%)			
Latino	56.32	56.92	57.90
White	17.95	18.81	18.02
Asian	14.00	13.18	12.93
Black	5.03	4.57	4.79
N	342	342	1,027

SOURCES: PPIC Reclassification Survey 2025; California Department of Education Census Day Enrollment 2024-25, Public Schools and Districts Directory 2025, and Title III Direct-Funded and Consortia Local Education Agencies

NOTES: Except for district type, responding LEAs in column 1 and Title III LEAs in column 3 are weighted by district size. In column 2, district size weights are combined with survey weights calculated from a logistic regression of enrollment, district type, percent English Learner, percent socioeconomically disadvantaged, and percent in each racial/ethnic group listed in the table.

Appendix B: References

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