Dually classified students are learners that are both classified as dual language learners (DLLs) and with having a disability.

14.7% of DLLs in public schools are dually classified with a disability.

Common Myths About Dually Classified Students:

1) Students cannot receive both English development support services and special education services at the same time.

2) Special education services are so individualized they encompass all of the supports DLLs need.

The Facts About Dually Classified Students:

- Having “no dual services” policies in districts and schools is illegal.
- Special education services can eclipse DLL English development services when they are entitled to receive both services.
- Over-representation tends to occur in high-incidence disability categories rather than low-incidence disabilities.

Key Takeaway:

Dually classified students need both language learning supports and special education supports, however these services are often inexistent or uncoordinated. If correctly identified, early intervention services can support dually classified students. If incorrectly identified, special education services can result in unintended inequities.