Message

Thank you all for the many emails of warm welcome and congratulations in my first week of this new position! As I begin to learn more about the great language education programs going on in Maine schools, under normal circumstances I would be travelling around the state to visit you and your students and see World Languages and ESOL instruction in action. Given our unique situation this year, I’d love to schedule some virtual visits. If you’re interested in having me “stop by” your online classroom space, whether to chat with you and your students or to be a fly on the wall, please call or email me so we can set up a time.

April Perkins
World Languages & ESOL/Bilingual Programs Specialist
april.perkins@maine.gov  Cell: (207)441-9043

Professional Learning

- Maine DOE ESOL Professional Learning Calendar

- 1/18/21 Maine NAACP: MLK Jr. Holiday Observance Virtual Teach-In and Call to Action
- 1/21/21 6:00pm ET: WestEd/NM DOE—Integrating ELD in Secondary Science
- 1/23/21 and 1/28/21, 2/4/21, 2/27/21: Embassy of Spain—Free Workshops for Spanish Teachers
- NECTFL Virtual Workshop Series (1/23/21, 2/27/21, 3/14/21, and 3/20/21)
- 1/24/21 4-5:30pm: St. Mary’s Webinar with Steve Wessler—Anti-Immigrant Bias in Maine and What We Can Do About It
- 1/26/21 5:00-6:00pm: Ballard & Tighe Webinar—Best Practices for Using Remote Assessments to Guide Instruction for English Learners
- Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques Webinar Series: Noires Amériques—Conversations littéraires (1/26/21, 2/2/21, 2/9/21, 2/16/21, and 2/23/21)
- Alliance Française French Classes Starting in January
- Coach Foreign Language Project: Teaching with Culturally Responsive Comprehensible Input Webinar Series (Upcoming Sessions 12/5/20, 1/9, 2/27, and 3/13)
- Duke/UNC/University of Michigan Webinar Series “How to teach about the Middle East—and get it right!” (1/28/21, 2/25/21, 3/18/21, 4/22, and 5/20)
- Starting 2/9/21 Maine State Teacher of the Year Association: Free Workshop Series—Anti-racist Education for all of Maine
- Save the Date! 3/12/21-3/13/21 FLAME Conference (Virtual) — Call for Proposals Now Open! (Due by 1/31/21)
- Save the Date! 5/7/21 (Time TBD): Maine ESOL Meeting (Virtual)
- 6/23/21 (Time TBD) French Cultural Services—National Seminar on French Dual Language Immersion and Education
- 7/25/21-7/31/21: Deutsche Woche in Bar Harbor

In this issue:
- Professional Learning
- Assessment Corner
- Articles of Interest
- Job Opportunities
- Seal of Biliteracy
- COVID-19 Supports
- Virtual Office Hours
ACCESS for ELLs

ACCESS for ELLs window runs from 1/11/21 - 4/16/21

Questions? Assessment support needed?
Jodi Bossio-Smith, State Coordinator for Alternate and WIDA Assessments
jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov
207.530.1462

If you have not already, please review WIDA's newly released resource:
Assessment Best Practices during COVID-19

Updates to the Special Considerations Module

The Maine DOE Assessment Team is offering a live webinar on January 21st @ 2pm which will include an overview of the updated special considerations module and provide participants the opportunity to ask questions.

Register for the webinar here

Important Quick Facts about ACCESS:

√ It is not possible to participate in ACCESS remotely.
√ Paper tests are only given as an IEP accommodation or for alternate and kindergarten assessments.
√ The decision to have a student participate in the Alternate ACCESS is made by the IEP Team using state guidance resources for alternate assessment participation.

IEP and 504 accommodations for assessment apply to the ACCESS assessments as well! If you have ELLs who are also special education students, make sure to check in with case managers and utilize the ACCESS Accommodations and Accessibility Supplement, available via the WIDA Secure Portal.

DRC can be reached at: wida@datarecognitioncorp.com and (855) 787-9615, 8:00am-7:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Technology troubleshooting
Materials ordering
WIDA AMS questions

Updates to the Special Considerations Module

The Maine DOE Assessment Team is offering a live webinar on January 21st @ 2pm which will include an overview of the updated special considerations module and provide participants the opportunity to ask questions.

Register for the webinar here

Important Quick Facts about ACCESS:

√ It is not possible to participate in ACCESS remotely.
√ Paper tests are only given as an IEP accommodation or for alternate and kindergarten assessments.
√ The decision to have a student participate in the Alternate ACCESS is made by the IEP Team using state guidance resources for alternate assessment participation.

IEP and 504 accommodations for assessment apply to the ACCESS assessments as well! If you have ELLs who are also special education students, make sure to check in with case managers and utilize the ACCESS Accommodations and Accessibility Supplement, available via the WIDA Secure Portal.

DRC can be reached at: wida@datarecognitioncorp.com and (855) 787-9615, 8:00am-7:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Technology troubleshooting
Materials ordering
WIDA AMS questions

Articles of Interest

Bangor Daily News: Opinion—New year should bring a new commitment to languages

Teaching Tolerance: Teaching about King’s Radical Approach to Social Justice

Entrepreneur: Why All Entrepreneurs Should Learn a Foreign Language

NPR: Making Language Come Alive with Food

Language Magazine: Stop Overlooking English Learners

The 74 Million: Analysis—Educators Say Distance Learning Failed Most English Learners Since Last Spring. Here are Ten Ways to More Effectively Serve ELs as Schools Reopen for Virtual and Blended Learning.

Bangor Daily News: Lewiston schools to recognize Muslim holidays

Maine DOE Newsroom: Want to Thank an Amazing Teacher this Year? Nominate!

Maine DOE Newsroom: Supporting Courageous Classroom Conversations About January 2, 2021 Insurrection at the US Capitol

Maine DOE Newsroom: New! Online Child Development Associate Training Available for Foreign-Trained Professionals

Bridge in the Middle: Teaching Online—Making the Most of Multilingualism

Migration Policy: International Students in the United States

BBC: Why are we learning languages in a closed world?
Job Opportunities

South Portland: Multilingual and Multicultural Coordinator

Sebago Elementary: Part-Time ESOL Teacher

Catholic Charities: TANF WF Project Coordination Specialist (Augusta)

Catholic Charities: TANF WF Project Coordination Specialist (Biddeford)

Cultural Alliance of Maine: Pilot Project Director

Saco: Long-Term Substitute ESL Teacher Grades 3-5

Seal of Biliteracy

National Seal of Biliteracy Report

The Maine Seal of Biliteracy application has been updated with the following changes:

- All applications will be submitted through the online form. Paper applications are no longer accepted.
- Applications must be complete upon submission. The separate evidence upload form will no longer be available.

If you have any questions or would like assistance navigating the process, please contact me at april.perkins@maine.gov or 441-9043. Best of luck to you and your students!

COVID-19 Social Supports

A Community-Based Organization Collaborative

Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition (MIRC) has been leading the advocacy efforts to redirect state funding to the small ethnic community-based organizations. Our staff has also been supporting their internal capacity for managing grants and contracts and the referral process system for social support services in collaboration with the Maine DHHS and providing funding for culturally-appropriate food to families in quarantine and isolation. This support includes providing cultural brokering services, distributing PPE, unemployment & financial support, housing assistance, delivering culturally-appropriate food, conducting outreach and prevention education, and language support. For more information, please visit www.maineimmigrantrights.org or email biggert@maineimmigrantrights.org/fsaidi@maineimmigrantrights.org. Thank you for your belief in our work and in enhancing the lives of Maine’s immigrants, especially during these challenging times!!

Mufalo Chitam | Executive Director
Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition

ESOL

Our next virtual office hour will be on 1/20/21 at 3:00pm. We will take a break from focused topics next week so that you can use the office hour to connect with your colleagues, share ideas, and get support.

Join Zoom here.
Meeting ID: 839 6220 3107 Passcode: ?2j!TtAe

Recordings will be available on the Maine DOE YouTube channel after each session.

View the 1/13/21 Office Hour

World Languages

As I begin my new role supporting World Language educators, I would like to invite you to an informal “meet and greet.” This will be an opportunity for you us to connect, get to know each other, and talk about your work and how I might best support you. I look forward to seeing you there!

1/19/21 at 3:00pm
Join Zoom here.
Meeting ID: 835 1618 2826 Passcode: 0C?nY9w