I am thrilled to announce that the Maine DOE is partnering with FLAME to co-sponsor an ESOL Teacher of the Year Award! The award will be presented to the winner at this year’s FLAME conference, to be held virtually on 3/12 and 3/13. Nominations are now being accepted. See the article below for details, and please feel free to share it widely. There are certainly many deserving educators across the state, and I can’t wait to highlight the amazing work you are all doing!

Seeking Nominations for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Teacher of the Year Award

April Perkins
World Languages & ESOL/Bilingual Programs Specialist
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Professional Learning

• 2/2/21 at 2-3:30pm: White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans—Embracing the Black Family in Schools: Cultural Competency, Teacher Diversity and Family Engagement
• Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques Webinar Series: Noires Amériques-Conversations littéraires (2/2/21, 2/9/21, 2/16/21, and 2/23/21)
• 2/2/21 at 3:30pm: Maine DOE “Unconference” on Digital Tools
• 2/4/21 4:30-6pm NALPA Webinar: Supporting Teachers to Foster Authentic Digital Interactions
• 2/4/21, 2/27/21: Embassy of Spain—Free Workshops for Spanish Teachers
• 2/16/21 at 6pm: ACTFL and AATJ Webinar—Engaging Our Learners: Lessons Learned While Teaching Japanese
• 2/23/21 at 2-3:30pm: US DOE Office of English Language Acquisition—Celebrating the Diversity of the Black Student: Supporting the Black English Language Learner
• NECTFL Virtual Workshop Series (2/27/21, 3/14/21, and 3/20/21)
• 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)
• Save the Date! 3/12/21-3/13/21 FLAME Conference (Virtual) — Call for Proposals Now Open (Due by 1/31/21)
• 3/24/20-3/27/20: TESOL 2021 Convention (Virtual)
• 4/22/21-4/24/21: Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Conference
• 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
Assessment Corner: ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

The ACCESS assessments window runs from January 11th – April 16th 2021

Many thanks to those coordinators from schools and districts that have reached out with questions regarding student rosters, assessment materials, scheduling and technology. The assessment season is underway and we are here to support! As the assessment window continues, please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

WIDA Resources for Assessment in 2021
- Assessment Best Practices During Covid-19 [WIDA secure portal login required]
- FAQ: ACCESS for ELLs in 2020-21 School Year

DRC can be reached at wida@datarecognitioncorp.com and (855) 787-9615, 8:00am-7:00pm, Monday through Friday for questions regarding:
- DRC platform
- Materials and materials return
- Student rosters, test sessions, and test management

Questions? Comments? Need Support?
Jodi Bossio-Smith
Coordinator for Alternate and WIDA Assessments
Jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov 207-530-1462

Articles of Interest
- CNBC: Raising kids bilingual can make them more attentive and efficient as adults
- EdWeek: Millions of ELL Students Face Prospect of In-Person, Federal Testing During COVID-19
- Portland Press Herald: Superintendents say required ELL test not worthwhile, risk this year
Job Opportunities

Portland Adult Education: Classroom Management Course Teacher (Contact Sally Sutton at suttos@portlandschools.org)

Five Town CSD/MSAD 28: Long-Term Substitute Spanish Teacher

RSU 71: Long-Term Substitute Spanish Teacher

Waynflete: Part-Time French/Spanish Teacher

South Portland: Multilingual and Multicultural Coordinator

Sebago Elementary: Part-Time ESOL Teacher

Cultural Alliance of Maine: Pilot Project Director

Seal of Biliteracy

National Seal of Biliteracy Report

Emily Bowen, a French teacher and UMF graduate student who is conducting a capstone research project on Bilingualism and the Seal of Biliteracy in Maine. All Maine world language and ESOL educators are invited to participate in a survey and consider participating in a one-time, follow up interview with the researcher about these topics. Please click on this link to read the cover letter and find links to the survey. Thank you for your consideration!

Maine Seal of Biliteracy

If you have any questions or would like assistance navigating the Seal of Biliteracy application process, please contact me at april.perkins@maine.gov or 441-9043.

Best of luck to you and your students!

Highlights

Maine DOE Newsroom: Maine Educators use French Music Competition to Increase Student Engagement, Cultural Knowledge, and French Skills

Maine DOE Newsroom: Maine Educator Selected by U.S. Department of State for Prestigious English Language Specialist Project

Virtual Office Hours

ESOL

Our next virtual office hour will be on 2/3/21 at 3:00pm.

Join Zoom here.

Meeting ID: 839 6220 3107
Passcode: ?2j!TtAe

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

Due to a technical issue, the recording of this week’s office hour is not yet available. It should be uploaded within the next 1-2 days.

World Languages

Thank you to those of you who attended last week’s meet & greet! It was lovely meeting you!

On 2/5/21 at 3pm, I will be hosting an informal office hour. Stop by and chat with me and your colleagues across the state. All questions, ideas, venting, celebrations, and topics welcome!

Join Zoom here.

Meeting ID: 825 3957 1009
Passcode: @DTh3scw