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Message

Next week (3/12-3/13) is the FLAME Conference! If you are an have never participated, this is a great year to get on board. If you’ve been to FLAME before, we welcome you back for a truly excellent schedule of events. There’s still time to register. See details [here](#).

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend, and as always, if there’s anything I can do to support your work, feel free to give me a call!

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Professional Learning

- Alliance Française Events: Le Mois de la Francophonie (March 2021)
- 3/12/21-3/13/21 FLAME Conference (Virtual) (Registration now open!!)
- 3/13/21 at 10am: Center for Exceptional Children Webinar on Selecting and Implementing Accommodations for English Learners with Disabilities on Content and English Language Proficiency Assessments
- NECTFL Virtual Workshop Series (3/14/21, and 3/20/21)
- Coach Foreign Language Project: Teaching with Culturally Responsive Comprehensible Input Webinar Series (3/13)
- Duke/UNC/University of Michigan Webinar Series “How to teach about the Middle East—and get it right!” (3/18/21, 4/22, and 5/20)
- Alliance Française - French Classes Spring Session Starts March 22nd
- 3/25, 4/22, & 5/20 4:30-6pm: Maine Multicultural Center Book Study for Educators on “We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom” by Dr. Bettina Love
- 4/22/21-5/1/21: Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Conference (Now virtual only!)
- 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
The ACCESS assessments window runs from January 11th – April 16th 2021

Districts and schools have been working diligently to provide the opportunity for English learners to participate in the ACCESS assessment this year when safely feasible! Thank you to those who have reached out with questions related to assessment practices, student eligibility, and guidance on remote learner participation. Over the last year it has become more critical than ever before to understand where students are in their English proficiency development, particularly considering how immigrant and refugee populations have been among the hardest hit during this pandemic.

**Special Considerations 2021**

Do you have a student unable to participate in assessment due to either a medical emergency or reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic? If so, please see our MECAS home page for information about special considerations requests.

In the event that you have more than 5 students who will require a special consideration request, please reach out to assessment coordinator Jodi Bossio-Smith for more information.

**Spring 2021 Assessment Administration Frequently Asked Questions**

This document includes questions received from the field regarding assessments, including the ACCESS for ELLs. This is a unique year and the DOE Assessment Team continues to work to support Maine districts, schools and educators in the safe administration of assessments!

This week, WIDA and DRC sent out a reminder to all ACCESS Test Coordinators to please return grades 1-3 completed writing booklets as soon as possible to DRC! These are hand-scored and returning in a timely fashion will ensure a smooth delivery of ACCESS data, despite the extension of our assessment window.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions!

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**Articles of Interest**

Portland Press Herald: Westbrook schools to get independent audit of curriculum equity

Scientific American: The COVID Zoom Boom is Reshaping Sign Language

Goethe-Institut: German American Partnership Program (School Exchanges) and German American Virtual Exchange

Maine DOE Newsroom: Opportunity for Partnerships with French Schools

Maine DOE Newsroom: Maine Learning Results Review Writing Teams Now Accepting Applications

France 24: ‘Françaises, Français’: Could the French language be less sexist?

Learning for Justice: Presently Invisible - The Arab Plight in American Classrooms

Edutopia: An Asset-Based Approach to Supporting English Learners’ Reading Skills
Job Opportunities

RSU 38 High School Spanish Teacher
MSAD 11 High School Long-Term Substitute French Teacher
The New School (Kennebunk) American Sign Language Teacher
Chewonki Spanish Teacher (Residential)
Cheverus High School Spanish Teacher
Augusta ESL Ed Tech II
RSU 20 World Languages Teacher
Cultural Alliance of Maine: Pilot Project Director
Saco: Long-Term Substitute ESL Teacher Grades 3-5

Seal of Biliteracy

Lead with Languages: Leading with the Seal of Biliteracy

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!

Virtual Office Hours

ESOL
Our next virtual office hour is on 3/10/21 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.

3/3/21 Recording

World Languages
Our next virtual office hour is on 3/12/21 at 3:00pm.

Join Zoom here.
Meeting ID: 825 3957 1009
Passcode: @DTh3scw

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

(Note that there is no recording for 2/26/21 as there were no attendees.)

Community Supports

Congolese Community of Maine (COCOMaine) is a nonprofit organization based in Maine with the mission of assisting and supporting individuals from Democratic Republic of Congo who have chosen Maine as their home. New Mainers from DRC experience a wide range of challenges including integrating their new life in Maine and Covid-19 has made this struggle much harder.

COCOMaine has been working on education and outreach related to COVID safety and now is educating and supporting their community related to COVID vaccination. Using cultural brokers they continue to educate and share accurate information and provide social supports such as ethnic foods and referrals for financial and unemployment assistance. To make the process and communication easier for everyone, they use interpreters in Lingala and French as well as translating flyers in multiple languages.

If you have any questions or need assistance for any of your students and their families please contact Papy Bongibo at papybongibo@gmail.com or 207-632-5108.