Congratulations to Julie Speno, World Languages Teacher of the Year, and Elena Sullivan, ESOL Teacher of the Year!!

Julie and Elena were announced as this year’s winners at the FLAME Conference last Friday. There will be a Maine DOE Newsroom article highlighting their achievements very soon, but in the meantime I would like to recognize these two outstanding Maine teachers for the wonderful work they are doing in support of language education. You are an inspiration to your students and to your fellow educators! Thank you for all that you do!

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Professional Learning

- Recording of webinar on “Franco-Americans of Lewis-Ton-Auburn, Maine: Lessons in Cultural Persistence”
- Recording of webinar on “Challenging Misconceptions of Women in Islam”
- Alliance Française Events: Le Mois de la Francophonie (March 2021)
- NECTFL Virtual Workshop Series (3/20/21)
- UMaine Canadian-American Center—Writing in French in North America” Lecture Series and Canadian History Lecture (3/29/21, 4/26/21, and 3/25/21)
- Alliance Française - French Classes Spring Session Starts March 22nd
- 3/23/21 at 3pm: Share My Lesson webinar on What ELL Educators Need to Know as Schools Reopen
- 3/24/21 at 7pm: Dawnland | Dear Georgina Online Film Screening + Women’s History Month Live Q & A
- 3/25/21 at 7pm: Virtueller Deutschlehrkräftestammtisch Neuengland (Email Kerstin.Haemmerling@goethe.de to register.
- 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
- 3/31/21 at 7pm: Maine Holocaust and Human Rights Center—Racism Is A Virus Too: Panel Discussion On The Asian American Youth Experience In Maine
- 4/22/21-5/1/21: Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Conference (Now virtual only!)
- Duke/UNC/University of Michigan Webinar Series “How to teach about the Middle East—and get it right!” (4/22 and 5/20)
- Save the Date! 5/7/21 (Time TBD): Maine ESOL Meeting (Virtual)
- 6/9/21 and 6/16/21 from 9:30-11am: WIDA eWorkshop on Planning with the WIDA ELD Standards Framework (Registration not yet open.
- 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
ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

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

Return Completed Writing Booklets!

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!

Check out the following resources from the DOE Assessment Team on the Maine DOE MECAS homepage:

Guidance to Support Districts During Spring 2021 Assessments
Office Hours – Weekly Q & A
Frequently Asked Questions – Spring 2021 Assessments

Questions? Comments? Need Support?

Jodi Bossio-Smith, State Coordinator for Alternate and WIDA Assessments
Jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov
207-530-1462

Articles of Interest

Maine Public: Language Barriers, Cramped Apartments: Immigrant Families Struggle With Schooling During A Pandemic
AP News: Racial diversity in children’s books grows, but slowly
Learning for Justice: Responding to Anti-Asian Violence and Georgia Shootings
Language Magazine: Recognizing Multilingual Speech Patterns
Guardian: “We’re trying to re-create the lives we had”: the Somali migrants who became Maine farmers
ABC: Program utilizes volunteers to bridge language gap, help students achieve their college dreams
Time: Donating, Volunteering, Reporting Hate Incidents: Here’s How to Help Combat Anti-Asian Violence
Amjambo Africa!: Growing Up in Congo
EdSource: Quick Guide: California’s road map for students learning English
ABC: US reaches settlement with CCSD to ensure equal opportunities for English learner students
Rider University News: Alumni trio highlight benefits of native language use in the classroom
NPR: Millions Of Kids Learn English At School. Teaching Them Remotely Hasn’t Been Easy
Job Opportunities

Winthrop MS/HS French Teacher (1 year)
MSAD 51 Spanish Teacher
Biddeford Summer Elementary School ELL Teacher
Wells-Ogunquit CSD High School French Teacher
Cape Elizabeth High School Spanish Teacher
Lewiston Middle School Language Facilitator
Union 69 Part-Time Foreign Language Teacher
RSU 38 High School Spanish Teacher
The New School (Kennebunk) American Sign Language Teacher
Chewonki Spanish Teacher (Residential)
Cheverus High School Spanish Teacher
RSU 20 World Languages Teacher

Virtual Office Hours

ESOL

Our next virtual office hour is on 3/17/21 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.

3/17/21 Recording

World Languages

In order to better accommodate everyone's schedules, we will be moving the office hour to Tuesday at 3:00pm. Our next office hour is on 3/23/21.

Join Zoom here.
Meeting ID: 832 2217 2285
Passcode: Vxc6WFa#

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

Announcements and Reminders

• Several new resources have been added to the ESOL Program Tool Kit, including parent/guardian notices, sample Lau Plan, and sample student schedules/guidance. We hope these will be helpful!

ESOL Program Tool Kit

Maine DOE Lau Plan Template and Guidance
Sample Lau Plan
Individual Language Acquisition Plan Template
Maine DOE Sample Student ILAP
Sample English Learner Eligibility Parent Notification Form
Sample Parent/Guardian Form to Decline ESOL Services
Guidance on Sample Student Schedules
Level 1.0-2.9 Sample Student Schedule
Level 3.0-3.9 Sample Student Schedule
Level 4.0-4.5 Sample Student Schedule
Translator and Interpreter Resources
Newcomer Student Communication Cards

• The DOE is seeking World Languages educators to serve on the standards review writing team.

• Applications for partnerships with schools in France are due by 3/31/21.

• The Maine ESOL Meeting (virtual) is on 5/7/21. Submit presentation proposals here.