**Message**

As we enter the last part of the school year, applications for the [Maine Seal of Biliteracy](https://www.maine.gov/education/esol/seals/biliteracy/) have been rolling in! It’s wonderful to see so many multilingual students being recognized this year. As a reminder, applications are due by May 15th. Call or email me anytime if you have questions about the application process. Best of luck to your students!

I hope you all have a wonderful April vacation! There will be no newsletter or office hour next week. I look forward to connecting with you the following week.

**April Perkins**

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**Professional Learning**

- **4/4/21 at 7pm:** AIELOC- The Role of Standards in Shaping Equitable Environments for Multilingual Learners (Fernanda Marinho Kray and Christina Nelson, WIDA)
- **2/21/21 at 3:30pm:** US DOE OELA—English Learners in Secondary Schools: Trajectories, Transition Points, and Promising Practices
- **4/21/21 at 7-8:30pm:** CERCLL-Translation in the Multilingual Language Classroom: Rationale, Roles and Activity Design
- **4/21/21 at 4-5pm:** Northern New England TESOL Maine Coffee Hour
- **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)
- **4/27/21:** National Association of English Learner Program Administrators Virtual Conference
- **4/28/21 at 7pm:** Confianza- Civics for all: Empowering English and Multilingual Learners
- **4/28/21 at 1pm:** Achieve3000—Examining the Barriers to After-High School Success and the Role of Parental Support, School Culture, and External Partnerships
- **4/30/21-5/3/21:** African Diaspora International Film Festival—Afro-Latino Film Series
- **5/5/21 at 4-5:30pm:** REL Southwest- Implementing Biliteracy Seals to Strengthen Bilingual Education and Support Cultural Awareness
- **5/7/21 10am-3pm:** Maine ESOL Meeting (Virtual) - Registration is open!
- **5/26/21 at 7pm:** English Learner Portal- Supporting Unaccompanied Immigrant Students
- **6/9/21 and 6/16/21 from 9:30-11am:** WIDA eWorkshop on Planning with the WIDA ELD Standards Framework (40 participants maximum)
- **6/23/21 (Time TBD)** French Cultural Services—National Seminar on French Dual Language Immersion and Education
The ACCESS window closes today, April 16th, 2021.

Return of Testing Materials

UPDATE: All ACCESS assessment materials must be returned to DRC no later than April 30th. Any questions about returning materials? See the Returning Materials PDF, available in the Download Library within the WIDA Secure Portal (login required).

ACCESS for ELLs Theme Generators & Standards Experts

June–September 2021

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) is pleased to announce upcoming opportunities for educators to be a part of the development of ACCESS for ELLs. Educators are invited to serve as Theme Generators and Standards Experts for new ACCESS for ELLs test items.

Want more information?
Reach out to April or Jodi!

Ready to apply?

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

Important Upcoming Dates

6/18/21 – ACCESS reports available online via WIDA AMS.
7/12/21 – Districts receive printed ACCESS reports.

Assessment 2021 Resources

The Maine DOE Assessment Team continues to work with districts to provide support for the administration of 2021 assessments when safely feasible to do so. Please visit the MECAS homepage for more information about:

- Frequently asked questions from the field
- Weekly office hours with the Assessment Team
- Comprehensive guidance document for 2021 assessments
- Assessment-specific trainings and resources

Articles of Interest

Maine DOE Newsroom: Maine Celebrates 21 New and 5 Renewed National Board Certified Teachers in Virtual Ceremony. Special congratulations to ESOL teacher Krista St. Cyr of Lewiston Middle School!!

Learning for Justice: Teaching about Race, Racism, and Police Violence

National Association of Educational Translators and Interpreters of Spoken Languages: Translated Resource for Families on What to Expect from an Interpreter

Maine DOE Newsroom: Considerations for Schools Supporting Observances During School Year: Ramadan Begins


Politico: ‘Race against time’: Pandemic propels fight to save Native American languages

Daily Beast: Babbel Language Learning App Review

BBC: The languages that defy auto-translate

Maine DOE Newsroom: Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) 2.0 Seeks Distinguished Educators (Paid Two-Year Positions in Agreement with Your School)

ScienceDaily: Multilingual people have an advantage over those fluent in only two languages
Job Opportunities

Portland Multiple Summer Positions
RSU 04 High School French Teacher
Freeport Part-Time Middle School Spanish Teacher
Cherryfield Part-Time ESOL Teacher
Kittery Part-Time ESOL Teacher
Baxter Academies High School French Teacher
Baxter Academies High School Spanish Teacher
MSAD 61 Spanish Teacher
Isleboro Central School Anticipated World Language Teacher K-12
Gorham High School Spanish Teacher
RSU 21 Anticipated Elementary Spanish Teacher
RSU 21 High School Spanish Teacher
Washington Academy Spanish Residential Faculty
Winthrop MS/HS French Teacher (1 year)
MSAD 51 Spanish Teacher

Poland Regional High School is hiring a French (preferably French/Spanish teacher) pending budget approval. Please email scrosby@rsu16.org if interested.

Celebrating French-Speaking Cultures

Penobscot Theatre Company in Bangor and le Théâtre du Rêve in Atlanta invite you to a series of Facebook live conversations to accompany their production of "Je ne suis pas Evangeline."

April 22: Join HERE
Join Bangor City Councilor & Attorney, Angela Okafor, French Translator for Amjambo Africa and French Teacher, Nathalie Gorye, and Amjambo Africa Publisher from DRC, Georges Budagu, as we understand, embrace and, celebrate French-speaking cultures from around the world.

April 26: Join HERE
Join Lise Pelletier, Director of the Acadian Archives, and Juliana L'Heureux, who writes about the Franco American experience for the BDN and Le Forum, as we celebrate French speaking Acadian women in Maine.

May 3: Join HERE
Join Artistic Director of Theatre du Rêve, Carolyn Cook, as we continue the celebration of Acadian women, French-speaking cultures and their importance to Maine's

Virtual Office Hours

All language educators are invited to stop by the virtual office hour. It is an informal opportunity to connect with the Department, ask any questions, and get to know your colleagues across the state. Our next virtual office hour is on 4/28/21 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.
The 4/14/21 session was not recorded due to low attendance.