Welcome to a brand-new school year, a fresh start, and a new look for Language Educators News! Over the summer, Robin, Jodi, and I have been busily planning all kinds of fun and exciting things for language educators. Be sure to keep an eye on the Professional Learning section on page two each week. Because of all the other trainings and opportunities to connect with colleagues that will be going on this year, office hours will be moving to monthly. We hope to see you there!

As always, if you need anything at all as you dive into the new school year, we are happy to help, so pick up the phone or email us anytime. Wishing you and your students a wonderful start!

April Perkins
Professional Learning

All virtual Maine DOE offerings will be recorded and posted to the Maine DOE YouTube channel unless noted with an asterisk.

Maine DOE Professional Development Calendar

WIDA Self-Paced eWorkshops are available 9.1.21-8.31.22

9.9.21 at 10am: Maine DOE Webinar on Submitting EL Data

Beginning 9.13.21 at 3pm: Maine DOE Virtual Workshop Series for New English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Teachers*

9.16.21 at 3pm: Maine DOE Developing Individual Language Acquisition Plans for English Learners

9.18.21 10am-4pm: Maine Immigrant Youth Conference

9.22.21 at 3pm: Maine DOE Increasing Student Motivation to Learn a World Language

9.28.21 at 1pm: CARLA Bringing Social Justice into Language Classes: Templates to Guide Instructional Planning

Articles of Interest

Maine DOE Newsroom: Priority Notice: Public Comment Period for Rulemaking on State Board of Education Rule Chapter 115 Now Open, Public Hearing Scheduled

Sahan Journal: English is important, but so is Somali: Minneapolis Public Schools are launching a Somali Heritage Language Program.

Foreign Policy: Haiti’s Foreign Language Stranglehold - Around 90 percent of Haitians speak only Haitian Creole. So why is school mostly conducted in French?

CNN: Here’s what you need to know before taking an ASL course, according to experts

Portland Press Herald: Gov. Mills says Maine is prepared to take in Afghans fleeing Taliban

Rutgers: Creating more dual-language programs should be part of post-COVID recovery plan

Barr Foundation Grants Available for Diversifying the Teacher Workforce

The Barr Foundation is proud to announce a new RFP, in partnership with TNTP, to support a cohort of New England public schools with a comprehensive analysis of their current teacher workforces. Participating districts will receive a summary of findings and trends, along with concrete steps they can take in the short- and long-term to ensure they have diverse and effective educator teams.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is highlighted in our recent blog post, "Barr and TNTP Announce New RFP for Districts to Recruit and Retain Teachers of Color."

Diversifying the Teacher Workforce in New England - Barr Foundation
Assessment Updates

Welcome back! We hope that you enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating summer break. Here are a few quick updates/reminders pertaining to the assessment of English learners this school year:

**NEW for SY 21-22:** ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs materials orders will be provided by Maine DOE, using local SAU enrollment data from Synergy State Edition. As in previous years, please make sure that all ELs, including newly-identified ELs, have a recorded EL Start Date in Synergy.

**NEW for SY 21-22:** This year, Maine continues to utilize the NWEA in ELA/literacy and math in grades 3-8 and 3rd year of high school. For more information on this assessment, including universal tools and designated supports which may apply to your English learners, please visit the Assessment Team webpages. There will be fall and spring administrations of NWEA this year. For more information, please see the Assessment Calendar for SY 21-22 or contact Nancy Godfrey, assessment coordinator.

**ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs**

**Important Dates for SY 21-22**

- **11/9/21** – Maine DOE provides student file to WIDA to generate materials ordering.
- **12/15/21** – Materials are received by SAUs.
- **1/10/22-3/4/22** – ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs administration window
Robin’s "Spotlight"

Hi Everyone!

My name is Robin Fleck and I work with April Perkins as an ESOL Consultant with the Maine Department of Education. Each week in this newsletter I will be highlighting a topic, along with resources, for you.

This week I would like to welcome you back or greet you for the first time to our community of language educators, school year 2021-22. I hope that you were able to have some time during the summer to do things that were fun and meaningful to you and were able to spend time with people that you wanted to be with. **The work you do each day is important, and your strengths and talents are where the work begins.**

This week I’d ask you think about how you are going to build the learning community with your students. Here are some questions for you to consider, and perhaps if you share your answers with teachers that you are going to be working with, it will be a first step in building a collaborative relationship that will benefit all learners.

- How will you learn about your students’ strengths, talents, interests, and challenges?
- How will you communicate high expectations for all students?
- How will you establish or maintain classroom expectations and procedures?
- How will you establish and maintain effective relationships with students and families?
- How will you engage students in learning?
- How will you establish and communicate learning goals to students and families?
- How will you track or monitor student progress?
- How and when will you celebrate students’ successes?
- How will you support multilingual learners so that they can fully engage in the community building process in their school and classrooms?
- How will you connect your students’ culture and identity to their educational setting?

Check out this [blog post](#) from Larry Ferlazzo in Education Week that has articles regarding the start of the school year.

Next week’s topic will be the Individual Language Acquisition Plan, with a sample of how to incorporate the new 2020 WIDA ELD Standards Performance Indicators into the plan.

The Spotlight articles are meant to be useful to you. If you have specific topics that you would like me to explore in the weekly newsletter, please reach out to me with your thoughts at robin.fleck@maine.gov.

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### Announcements

**Seeking ESOL Consultants:**
Are you an ESOL-endorsed teacher willing to serve as a consultant for schools in need? [Sign up here](#) if you’d like your contact information to be shared with schools who reach out to the DOE for help locating a teacher.

**WIDA eWorkshops:**
This is a reminder that WIDA self-paced eWorkshops in progress will be cleared out of the Secure Portal by 8.31.21, so if you’re in the middle of an eWorkshop, you’ll want to wrap up by then. If you haven’t downloaded your certificates of completion, be sure that you do that before 8.31.21 as well.

**Meet a German:**
This October 6th, would you like to expose your students to German language and culture? Check out the [Meet a German](#) program, offered by Fulbright/AATG.

**Immigrant Students’ Rights:**
Are you looking for a resource on immigrants’ rights to enroll in school? The Intercultural Development Research Association has published a [convenient guide](#) that you can share with administrators and registration personnel.

**MIRC Resources on Drug Use:**
In response to recent events, Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition has created two flyers, [How to Recognize a Drug Overdose](#), and [How to talk to your child about drug use](#). These flyers are available in English and 17 additional languages. Please feel free to share them with others who may benefit from the information.
Job Opportunities

Wiscasset School Department ASL Interpreter
RSU 57 Spanish Teacher
Boston Public Schools Assistant Superintendent for the Office of English Language Learners
RSU 20 Part-Time ESOL Teacher
RSU 9 Adult Ed ESOL Instructor
Blue Hill Harbor School French Educator
RSU 21 Part-Time French Teacher
MSAD 75 World Language Teacher
MSAD 54 World Language Teacher
Lee Academy Foreign Language Teacher
RSU 15 Long-Term Sub Spanish

Global Connect Day

The Global Seal of Biliteracy organization invites you to join them on October 13th as they partner with Akash Patel and Happy World Foundation during the Y-C.R.E.D. event to connect your language classroom with a native speaker for a fun, engaging, and interactive 20-30 minute virtual conversation. To participate with your class or as an individual native speaker volunteer in “Global Connect Day,” register here.

Between now and September 30th, they will be matching classrooms and guest speakers around the world for an exciting one-day event that will highlight the importance of bilingualism. Students will use their acquired language skills to interview and learn more about their “Mystery Guest” and their country.

Center for Applied Linguistics

Practitioner’s Brief:
Student Voices: High Schoolers’ Insights into World Language Learning

Monthly Office Hours

ESOL
3rd Wednesday of Each Month
Next: 9.15.21 at 3:30pm
Focus Topic: English Learner Identification
Register by 9.12.21

World Languages
2nd Wednesday of Each Month
Next: 9.8.21 at 3:30pm
Focus Topic: Proposed Certification Rule Changes
Register by 9.5.21