Message

I hope you and your students have had a great week! It’s been wonderful to hear from many of you over the past few days as you get back to the business of teaching languages. For me, the best part of any day is getting a call from a language teacher, so please always feel free to pick up the phone.

I’d like to share one FAQ that has come my way several times this week from ESOL teachers. With some families opting for homeschooling or fully remote learning, teachers are wondering what obligations schools have to identify, serve, and assess students who are English learners.

The answer lies in the student’s official enrollment. If the student is enrolled fully or partially in the public school, then all legal requirements apply. However, if the student is truly homeschooled (which is different from being enrolled in the public school and engaging in full-time remote learning), then the public school does not have an obligation to identify, serve, or administer ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS. However, most families with students who are learning English opt to enroll at least partially in the public school, and their children can then benefit from the ESOL teacher’s support and expertise.

If you have any questions about this or anything else, I’m happy to help.

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

Beginning 9.21.21 at 3:30pm: Virtual PLC on the WIDA English Language Development Standards, 2020 Edition (See registration form for full description and schedule.)

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

Language Magazine: Phonemic Awareness and Phonics Instruction Are NOT the Way We Learn to Read

EdWeek: Teaching Introverted Students: How a ‘Quiet Revolution’ Is Changing Classroom Practice

URI News: Education grad student receives $10,000 French Dual Language fellowship

Bangor Daily News: Business, higher education leaders call for pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants

Down East: Maine’s Somali Bantus Are Reenvisioning American Farming

National Geographic: Reviving a once-forbidden dialect: ‘All French is good French’

**Seeking Maine Educators to Create Content for MOOSE**

After a successful first year, MOOSE, Maine’s Online Opportunities for Sustained Education, platform continues to grow as the Maine Department of Education (DOE) looks to hire educators to create new content during the upcoming school year. Nearly 300 teacher-created, student-driven modules were created showcasing an interdisciplinary, project-based model of education. MOOSE provides students, families, and educators with learning experiences that are accessible, inclusive, and available free online. Read more details here, including how to apply.
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Dates for SY 21-22</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/9/21 - Maine DOE provides student file to WIDA to generate materials ordering.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/15/21 - Materials are received by SAUs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/10/22-3/4/22 - ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs administration window</td>
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Questions pertaining to assessment? Please don’t hesitate to contact a member of the Maine DOE Assessment Team:

Janette Kirk, Director of Assessment
Janette.kirk@maine.gov

Jodi Bossio-Smith, Coordinator of Alternate and WIDA Assessments
Jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov

Nancy Godfrey, Coordinator of Assessment
Nancy.godfrey@maine.gov

Dr. Regina Lewis, Coordinator of NAEP and International Assessments
Regina.lewis@maine.gov
Robin’s "Spotlight"

There will be a virtual training on developing an ILAP on September 16, 2021 from 3-4pm. This session will provide an overview of how to develop an ILAP, including creating goals using the 2020 WIDA ELD Standards. Register for this training here. The training will be recorded and be available on the Maine DOE’s YouTube Channel.

The Individual Language Acquisition Plan (ILAP) or Individual English Learner Plan (IELP) is an essential piece of developing a thoughtful, data- and performance-driven plan of service throughout the academic school year. The plan should be designed to be used and referred to throughout the school year by teachers, families, and students. The ILAP should be developed in collaboration with the Language Assessment Committee (or Language Acquisition Committee) (LAC), and if the parents/guardians are not able to be with the LAC, then the ESOL staff should be certain that the plan is explained to the parent/guardian in a language that the parent/guardian requests. The parent/guardian should have the opportunity to provide input for the plan, whenever possible. The ILAP should be included in a student’s cumulative folder, and all teachers who are providing service to students should be made aware of the goals within the plan and know where to access the ILAP. Please see the guidelines for the ILAP in Serving Maine’s English Learners on pages 14-15.

Each student designated as an EL must have an Individual Language Acquisition Plan (ILAP), which should be updated at least annually until the student exits EL status. The LAC will develop the ILAP, which outlines a personalized action plan for language development based on evidence such as:

- ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS results
- Classroom observations
- Grades
- State standardized academic assessments
- Local standardized academic assessments

Placement and services must include supplemental student supports that will enable the EL to meet Maine’s challenging academic standards.

The Maine Department of Education does not have any specific requirements as to the format of a student’s ILAP, but it is important to include specific language-learning goals and the


Announcements

Maine Learning Results for World Languages Update:
Over the summer, the Writing Team convened to draft revised standards based on the guidance of the Steering Committee. The draft is now being reviewed by the Maine DOE and will then move onto the legislature. Stay tuned for an announcement of the opportunity to provide public comment in the coming months.

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.

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.
interventions, modifications, and accommodations the student will receive.

Per the [Priority Notice](#) and [FAQ](#) released in February 2020, the Maine Department of Education recommends the following service provision guidelines:

The “consultation model” of services is not considered to be based on sound educational theory and should not be used.

1. **ELs in English language proficiency levels one and two (as measured by WIDA assessments) should receive at least two periods of ESOL per day, and ELs above proficiency level two should receive at least one period of ESOL per day.**
2. **Ed Techs, tutors, or other educators cannot provide the core ESOL services required by civil rights law, even under supervision of an ESOL-endorsed teacher.**
3. **ESOL services can be declined by parents/guardians only with meaningful consent.**

See the [English Learner Resources](#) page on the Maine DOE website for an ILAP template, sample ILAP, and sample goals written with the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition. These goals should be used by all teachers to identify the daily language expectations within the classroom/content areas. Throughout this school year, we will be exploring strategies for using these goals.

Next week I will write about the LAC process.

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](mailto:robin.fleck@maine.gov).

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**Announcements (continued)**

**Alliance Française:**
The Alliance Française du Maine is pleased to announce an exciting program of language and culture classes, for all levels. Offerings include Zumba, Yoga, Café des Artistes, Cinéma, and Théâtre Francophone. Registration is open for fall 2021 classes. For more information, please visit: [https://afdume.org/](https://afdume.org/).

**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

- AOS 98 (Boothbay Region HS) Spanish Teacher
- RSU 22 Middle School Spanish Teacher
- St. Brigid School Grades 4-8 Spanish Teacher
- 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
- Blue Hill Harbor School French Educator
- 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.

US Department of Agriculture

This year, school meals are available to all Maine students for free! Has your school taken steps towards reflecting the cultures of its students in its menu? Check out this blog from USDA on School Meals Seasoned with Cultural Flavors.

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