Message

This week Maine was visited by French Ambassador Philippe Étienne, Consul General Arnaud Mentré, and several other distinguished members of the French government. Their visit included the Franco-American Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and a roundtable meeting at the Roux Institute in Portland that centered on developing and strengthening business relationships between Maine and France. There was much discussion on the crucial need for francophone students to work as employees and leaders in French businesses established in Maine. The government and business leaders present recognize that bilingual/multilingual employees serve as an essential bridge.

This is just one example of how the work you do every day with your students has a direct and palpable impact on the future of our state. Whatever language you teach, the language skills your students are acquiring through you are an absolute imperative if Maine is to thrive and be a place of economic opportunity. As language teachers, we have a critical role in ensuring a successful future, both for our students as individuals and for our communities here in Maine. Thank you for all that you do - and remember that your impact extends far beyond your classroom and far into the future.

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

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

10.19.21 and 10.26.21 from 2-3:30pm: WIDA Nurturing Speaking Growth

10.21.21 at 3pm: Maine DOE Cultural Appropriation in World Languages Classrooms

Articles of Interest

Amjambo Africa!: Meet South Portland’s new multicultural and multilingual coordinator Alice Kabore

Colorin Colorado: Welcoming Afghan Families: Lessons Learned from Austin ISD

Portland Press Herald: Maine Franco-American Hall of Fame inducts its first Black member

New York Times: Forgetting My First Language

New York Times: How Language Classes Are Moving Past the Gender Binary

Visual Capitalist: This is the Language Each Country Wants to Learn the Most

Guardian: Why the Latin Language is Still Alive

Language Magazine: Increased Linguistic Diversity Needed in U.S. Health Care

WIDA Screener for Kindergarten

As of August 1, 2021, all Maine schools are required to use the new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten for identification of students as English learners. (K W-APT and K MODEL are no longer permitted for identification purposes.) See this year’s updated identification and placement guidance document on the WIDA website for details on required screeners and identification thresholds by grade level.

WIDA Screener for Kindergarten is a paper-and-pencil test that can be printed in grayscale or in color from the WIDA Secure Portal for free. You can also order professionally printed materials, at a cost, from the WIDA Store. Be sure to complete the test administrator training in the WIDA Secure Portal before administering. Also in the Secure Portal, you can find an overview webinar to begin getting familiar with this new assessment, which is quite similar to Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs. Let us know if you have any questions!
**Assessment Updates**

Remember! There has been a change to the ACCESS ordering process for this year. **NEW for SY 21-22:** ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs materials orders will be provided to WIDA/DRC 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. This change in protocol has been adopted in an effort to continue expanding DOE support of Maine’s dedicated and hardworking EL Educators and Administrators.

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 or contact Nancy Godfrey, assessment coordinator: Nancy.godfrey@maine.gov

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**Alternate ACCESS for ELLs and Eligibility to Participate**

Alternate assessments are designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Participation must be determined by the IEP Team, using state criteria for eligibility.

Want to learn more about alternate assessment participation, including the MSAA and MSAA Science? Join the DOE 1% Team for an upcoming webinar on September 15th @ 3pm. Learn more here

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**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.
- 12/15/21-2/25/22 - Additional materials ordering for new and transfer ELs; facilitated by SAUs.
- 1/10/22-3/4/22 - ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs administration window.

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**MEA Calendar for SY 21-22**

Data validation period for the 2021 ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS is underway! Please reach out to your District Assessment Coordinator for more information.

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"

Language Acquisition Committee

The Language Acquisition Committee (LAC), required by and described in each district’s Lau Plan, is a school/and or district-based team responsible for guiding and monitoring the placement, services, and assessment of students who are English Learners (ELs). The LAC may be comprised of content-area or general education classroom teachers of ELs, assessment specialists, school administrators, school counselors, ESOL staff, parents/guardians, and other members as appropriate (e.g., central office administrators, and school psychologists, person knowledgeable of native language/interpreter). If a student has identified special needs, then it is advisable to include the student’s case manager or direct service provider.

The number of times that the LAC meets should be outlined in the district’s Lau Plan. The LAC should meet at least once a year and can (and should) meet as many times as needed to provide the student with appropriate and equitable educational programming. The LAC should be a time when student’s strengths, growth (academically, socially, and emotionally), are included, rather than just focusing on a student's challenges or lack of progress.

The ILAP (Individualized Language Acquisition Plan) should be referred to and revised or modified during the LAC meetings. An ILAP gives a point of reference for a student’s baseline of English proficiency and states the annual goals for that student. When the LAC is meeting to monitor progress, these goals should be referred to.

Written notes summarizing any new plan of educational programming or services should be recorded, as well as any revisions to the ILAP. These should have a place, with the ILAP, in the student’s cum folder and shared with teachers and staff that work directly with the student.

It is our responsibility to ensure parent/guardian understanding. Interpreters may need to attend LAC meetings, and document translations may need to be provided as well. The school must use a qualified interpreter. Bilingualism is not sufficient to qualify someone to act as an interpreter. If you need to locate a professional interpreter or translator, you may refer to this list of agencies.

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.

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.

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.

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/.
Job Opportunities

Maine Arts Academy French Teacher
Cape Elizabeth Spanish Teacher (One Year)
RSU 21 Part-Time Elementary Spanish Teacher
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 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.

Languages of Afghanistan

As Maine prepares for more Afghan families to arrive, check out this resource from Translators without Borders that tells about the many languages spoken across the country, including the two official languages of Dari and Pashto.

Monthly Office Hours

An informal opportunity to connect with DOE staff and teaching colleagues

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: 10.13.21 at 3:00pm
Focus Topic: Gender-Inclusiveness in World Languages
Register by 10.10.21