Message

So much language-learning goodness in this week’s edition! Thank you to everyone who has passed along news and events to share.

I hope you all have a great weekend and an even better break next week. In the meantime, here are a few quick announcements (and several more on page 5!):

- Due to Thanksgiving break, there will be no newsletter next week.
- If you’re looking for resources for teaching about Thanksgiving, check out this year’s collection from Learning for Justice (formerly Teaching Tolerance).
- The Department of Linguistics at the University of Southern Maine has released its course offerings for the spring 2022 semester.
- The US DOE announced that there will be a multi-agency initiative across federal government to Protect & Preserve Native (Indigenous) Languages.
- There are two spots remaining for the 11/30 training offered by AATF-Maine and the French Consulate. See the PL section on page 3 for details.
- The Maine DOE has released an Online Library of Videos Now Available to Support Emotional Wellbeing of Educator Workforce. Thank you, Kellie Bailey, for your leadership!

April Perkins
Can you tell me a little bit about your background? What motivated you to become a teacher?

I guess I always did some teaching, whether it was with children in community centers or youth clubs. That is sort of an informal teaching. I was in the peace corps in Ecuador and I was working on drinking water and sanitation projects. My background is in science: biology and civil engineering. But I got interested in learning language and the process of learning Spanish and a little bit of Quichua. I came back to the states and I was doing water-related work. After my kids were born, I went into teaching more full time. I taught science, and then Spanish, and then ultimately ESL. I really feel very useful in an ESL classroom. I admire the people that come here to make a better life for themselves and their children. They take that big risk of coming here. I know how hard it is to be a foreign language learner. My background is diverse, so it lets me jump in to help them in whatever content area my students need help in.

How do you navigate having different levels of learners in your classroom?

Typically, I work with, at most, two students at a time. This year, I am going to three schools, but I have gone to as many as five. That is the beauty of ESL in rural areas. It lets you really tailor your teaching to the students’ specific needs. I know that is a real luxury, but you have to put up with traveling around schools and not always having a room to work in. It can also be challenging not having peers who are doing the same thing in your district. The reward is that you get to work with one or two students and to some extent, you have time to focus on what they need.

What was it like transitioning between the different subjects you have taught? Did any of your Spanish teaching inform your ESOL teaching?

I taught Spanish in a small private school and I taught science for adult learners. I have not had a tremendous amount of traditional classroom experiences. The idea of teaching the basics and then building layers on that is the same in all the education I have done. But certainly, Spanish focuses on language, so I can use some of the same tools I have created. For example, many of the language games and exercises I created I can work with in ESL classrooms, as well.

What has been the biggest or most impactful challenge you have faced as an educator?

I guess with English Language Learners, you sometimes have students whose parents, because of work and language, are not able to provide a lot of educational support for their kids. People who work long hours may not be immersed in this culture, so their kids have to be able to manage a lot. I feel that we need to be able to support them in ways that are not the same for a traditional classroom teacher. Like everyone else, teaching remotely was very difficult and I am glad we got past that. For English language learners that was hard because they not only learn the language at school but also are immersed in the school culture. That was lost during remote learning.

**Teacher Effectiveness for Language Learning (TELL):**

**Virtual Roundtable Discussions**

| January 26: | Learning Targets & Checks for Learning |
| February 23: | The Lesson Plan Cycle |
| March 23: | Moving from Input to Output |
| April 27: | Performance Assessments |

All roundtable discussion will take place via Zoom at 4 PM (ET), 3 PM (CT), 2 PM (MT), 1 PM (PT). There is no cost to participate, however registration will be limited to ensure meaningful conversations among all participants. Click the roundtable titles to register today.
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

Maine Seal of Biliteracy Overview Webinar Recording

ExcEL Leadership Academy Q&A Recording

Panel Discussion on DEI Considerations for Health & Physical Education Recording

11.30.21 9am-4pm at USM: AATF-Maine and Cultural Services of the French Consulate In-Person Workshop: Développer les compétences orales en classe de FLE (Contact Noah Ouellette (noah.ouellette@diplomatie.gouv.fr) or Nathalie Gorey to register. Lunch will be provided. Two spots remaining!!

11.31.21 at 2pm: Lexia Learning Helping English-Learners Through Improved Parent Outreach: Strategies That Work

12.2.21 to 1.19.21: NECTFL Virtual Workshop Series for Fall/Winter

12.7.21 at 3pm: Maine DOE Hosts Dr. Thomas Sauer of PEARLL Teacher Effectiveness for Language Learning Framework and Catalyst

12.9.21 4-5pm: FLAVA Co-Constructing Practices To Help Students With Disabilities Move Toward Proficiency

12.13.21 at 3pm: Maine DOE Hosts ExcEL Leadership Academy

2.2.22-2.4.22: JNCL-NCLIS Virtual Language Advocacy Days

2.7.21 8am-4pm: National Association of English Learner Program Administrators Hybrid Conference: Advancing Linguistic Equity through Program Leadership

2.10.22-2.12.22 Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Annual Conference in NY

3.11.21: Save the Date for the Maine ESOL Meeting (Details to come!)

Summer 2022: CARLA Summer Institutes schedule now available

Articles of Interest

Portland Press Herald: Native authors share their culture through stories about Indigenous people in Maine

Franceinfo: Dictionnaire : l’apparition du pronom "iel" dans Le Petit Robert fait polémique

Lingoda: Survey: 85% of US language learners want their children to speak more than one language

Maine Public: Documentary film ‘Bounty’ confronts government-issued scalp bounties against Indigenous people

Washington Post: Thousands of Afghan children and teenage refugees will soon be enrolled in America’s public schools

EdWeek: Q&A: What Is Culturally Responsive Teaching?

Edutopia: Tapping Into English Language Learners’ Strengths

Washington Post: As numbers of multilingual students rises, finding teachers for them becomes a priority

Identity and Multilingualism through Picture Books: NEH Summer Institute

“Identity and Multilingualism through Picture Books” is a two-week summer institute designed for 29 K-3 elementary teachers sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The institute will focus on pedagogical approaches to language learning through an equity lens, engaging with narrative form and structure (translation, multilingualism, code-switching) as well as visual construction (illustrations of race, ethnicity and culture as well as modes of interacting with book format). We will offer our seminar in a combined format: one week of virtual synchronous and asynchronous content July 4-8, 2022 in preparation for one-week of in-person, hands-on learning experiences to be held July 11-15, 2022 at Bates College in Lewiston, ME. See their website for details including eligibility requirements, timeline, logistics, and how to apply.
Assessment Updates

ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

➢ **November 30th:** Student rosters and test sessions become available in WIDA AMS.
➢ **December 15th:** Initial Materials orders received by schools and SAUs. The materials will be shipped directly to schools, and will include overage of materials for grade clusters with more than 10 students rostered. Overage materials as well as District Test Coordinator Manuals will be included in the boxes shipped to SAUs.
➢ **December 15th:** Additional Materials Ordering becomes available to SAUs in WIDA AMS.

With the ACCESS for ELLs window opening on 1/10/22, we are officially entering assessment season! It’s important to take time in November and December to prepare and organize for the assessment administration. The [WIDA Secure Portal](https://www.wida.us) contains helpful resources available to District and School Test Coordinators and Test Administrators, including the following topics:

- **Pre-Testing: Test Scheduling**
- **Technology Installation and Technology Overview** (important to share with the appropriate technology colleagues who will be preparing the devices used during ACCESS)
- **ACCESS for ELLs for New Coordinators and New Administrators**

Helpful Links & Resources

**Accessibility and Accommodations** - Information about the available features for the ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. Remember to confirm with students’ case managers in the event the English learner has an IEP/504 Plan with assessment accommodations. This is part of the student’s legal right to FAPE, under IDEA.

**Preparing for Assessment: Practice and Sample Items** - It’s critical that students participating in state assessments have opportunities to interact and practice with the kinds of items they will see on the test. If students will be employing accessibility features or accommodations, it’s also an opportunity for them to see how this will function in the actual platform. Please remember to build time in either late December or the first week of January for students to become familiar with this resource.

Questions? Concerns? Please reach out!

Jodi Bossio-Smith
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207.530.1462
### Job Opportunities

**RSU 3 Full-Time ELL Ed Tech III**

**Augusta ELL Ed Tech II**

**Westbrook Long-Term Sub ELL HS Teacher**

**Westbrook Long-Term Sub ELL Elementary Teacher**

**Auburn Cultural Broker/Interpreter Park Ave Elementary**

**Maine DOE Educational Technology Infrastructure Specialist (Limited Period)**

**Bangor ESL Teacher**

**RSU 51 French Teacher**

**RSU 3 Long-Term Substitute Spanish Teacher**

**Scarborough MS Spanish Teacher**

**RSU 2 Hall-Dale MS Spanish Teacher (French also desired)**

**South Portland Multiple ELL Teacher and ELL Ed Tech Positions** (Advertised as one-year positions, but there is potential for continued employment)

**RSU 22 Middle School Spanish Teacher**

**Biddeford ELL Ed Tech III**

**Westbrook ELL Elementary Ed Tech III (One Year)**

**RSU 44 ELL Tutor**

**Falmouth HS Latin Teacher (One Year)**

**MSAD 54 Part-Time ELL Tutor**

**Biddeford ELL Ed Tech II**

**SAD 15 Long-Term Substitute Spanish Teacher**

**Waterville ELL Teacher**

**AOS 98 (Boothbay Region HS) Spanish Teacher**

### Announcements

**Congratulations, Majlinda!**

The American Translators Association has named Majlinda Mulla-Everett the winner of its 2021 School Outreach Contest! Majlinda interprets Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian, Croatian, and Macedonian. She also taught a week-long course at Portland High School for students who may wish to pursue a career in interpreting. Thanks for all you do, Majlinda!

**REL Webinar Recordings**

Check out this webinar from REL West last February on **Helping Young English Learners at Home: Simple and Fun Activities to Strengthen Language Development**. REL Southwest also released the recording of its webinar on **Culturally Responsive School Practices to Support the Success of Native American English Learners**.

**French Immersion Weekend**

UMA and AATF-Maine are hosting the 2022 French Immersion Weekend as a virtual event, to be held Friday, January 14th 6-8:30 p.m. & Saturday, January 15th 8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. This year's theme is "Le Carrefour."

**Wabanaki Public Health & Wellness Winter Solstice Event**

On December 21 from 6-7pm, Dwayne Tomah (Passamaquoddy at Sipayik) and John Dennis (Mi’kmaq, Eskasoni First Nation) will present Stories from the Dawnland, a free streaming event.

**TV5 Maine Heritage Film Grant**

TV5 is offering a grant of $15,000 to filmmakers to produce a short documentary film on Francophone cultures in Maine. Applications are due January 10, 2022. See [here](#) for details, et bonne chance!

### Monthly Office Hours

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Office Hours</th>
<th>ESOL</th>
<th>World Languages</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An informal opportunity to connect with DOE staff and teaching colleagues</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday of Each Month</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday of Each Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least five registrants are required in order for office hours to be held.</td>
<td>Next: 12.15.21 at 3:30pm</td>
<td>Next: 12.8.21 at 3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Focus Topic: Culturally-responsive practices around the holidays; Receipt of ACCESS materials: inventory and assessment security. Best practices for assigning accommodations for the ACCESS.</td>
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<td>Focus Topic: Avoiding Burnout</td>
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<td>Register by 12.12.21</td>
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<td>Register by 12.5.21</td>
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