Message

This year we all need connection and positivity, perhaps more than ever! I hope you’ll be able to attend one or both of the following events to connect with your colleagues across Maine. Also, be sure to take a moment and nominate an outstanding teacher, so we can spread some happiness and highlight the great work language teachers do every day!

- The annual FLAME Conference (virtual) has been scheduled for 3.11.22 and 3.12.22! This year’s theme is Help Me Get Through the Year. Presentation proposals are being accepted through 2.11.22. Click here for more details and the proposal form!

- The Maine ESOL Meeting will be taking place virtually on 3.11.22! The theme for this year is Realizing our Shared Responsibility. Submit your proposal here. Registration will open next month. Stay tuned for more details! Feel free to contact me with any questions.

- Nominations are now open for the FLAME World Languages Teacher of the Year and ESOL Teacher of the Year! Submit nominations for your outstanding colleagues by 2.11.22.
  - Nominate a World Languages Teacher
  - Nominate an ESOL Teacher

April Perkins

April Perkins
World Languages & ESOL/Bilingual Programs Specialist
april.perkins@maine.gov
(207)441-9043

Jodi Bossio-Smith
Coordinator of Alternate and WIDA Assessments
jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov
(207)530-1462
What drew you to teaching German? What is it like teaching German in Maine?
The main thing that drew me to teaching is that when I was in my last semester of undergrad, where I majored in earth science and history, I met a German student who was going to study abroad at my university. I had taken German classes throughout my life and in college; it had always been an important part of my life. I got to know her, and she said I could live in her apartment in Germany while she was studying abroad in the U.S. We made that plan in the spring, and that summer she came to the U.S. to start her program and gave me the keys to her apartment. I flew to Germany, moved in, and I found a job working as an assistant at a small language school. The woman who ran the school was amazing. I ended up helping out at a bunch of different schools in Germany. I really liked working with students in Germany and I never thought I would. That prompted me to get my master’s degree in German and I studied in Austria through that program. I left full-time teaching ten years ago, though, and I never imagined I’d be a high school German teacher again. I was working in international education, as a student support coordinator at CIEE, when the pandemic set in. I was laid off, along with about 75% of the organization’s worldwide staff. When the 2020-2021 school year started, I knew schools needed help, so I started working as an Ed Tech III at Yarmouth High School and loved it. Then when a German opening came up mid-year at another school, I decided to go for it. I’m still adjusting emotionally, mentally, and physically to all of the changes of the past two years.

It is a small German teaching community in Maine. You quickly get to know other German teachers. Often, there is not another German teacher in your district. I am fortunate that at our middle school, there are also German classes, so I have a teacher to collaborate with. It is a lot of needing to place your own path at school while also trying to get a feel for the larger community.

How do you think your teaching style differs from other teachers and what is most important to you in the classroom?
First and foremost, I just try to relate to my students. I think that’s pretty important. If I can’t feel like I’m myself or my students can’t feel like they are themselves, it would be harder to teach German. Especially right now, things are very stressful for students and teachers alike. Being a kind and laid-back presence for my students is important to me. I also like to use materials that are available to me and are creative, like music videos. Using materials that are out there for teachers to use has been really helpful for me.

Can you talk a little bit about FLAME, what they do, and what your role as a board member is?
I am new to FLAME. As soon as I became a German teacher again, Deb Backman asked me to be the vice president of AATG and serve on the board of FLAME, which stands for Foreign Language Association of Maine. We are actually working to change the name to be inclusive of all the languages we have in Maine and not deem them or focus solely on foreign languages. It is exciting to get to know what FLAME to be more inclusive and to serve and represent more people of different languages in the state that we are working on. We plan a meeting every spring for all language teachers. We try to refresh and get some new ideas to bring back to the classroom.

If there was one piece of education policy that could be immediately implemented in your district or in Maine, what would you choose?
It’s hard to pick just one. I think in my district it’s awesome that students learn English, Spanish, French, and German. I wish all the districts in Maine had that, and I wish every student had the opportunity to learn multiple languages from a young age, for example in elementary school. I also wish there was more pay equity throughout districts. I wish teachers would be paid more similarly throughout the state. I also think getting to a place where we can offer free college and better loan forgiveness plans is really important.
Professional Learning

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

**ExcEL Leadership Academy**: Free Micro-Credentials (and option for graduate credit) in ESOL Topics

**WIDA Self-Paced eWorkshops are available 9.1.21-8.31.22**

Recording: [French Heritage Language Program](#) 1.27.22

1.29.22 10am-1pm: CARLA [All Are Welcome in Language Class: UDL from Principles to Practice](#)

1.30.22 at 3pm: Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium [Take Good Care: Prioritizing Teacher & Student Well-Being](#)

2.2.22-2.4.22: [JNCL-NCLIS Virtual Language Advocacy Days](#)

2.4.22 1-2:15pm: French Cultural Services [L’influence de la langue française sur l’anglais : identification, catégorisation et réflexes étymologiques : Anthony Lacoudre](#)

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

2.16.22 4-5:15pm: NNETESOL Webinar [Infusing Critical Language Awareness Into Our Writing Lessons](#)

3.1.22-3.8.22 Center for Applied Linguistics Institute on [Newcomers in Your School: Cultural Connections and Instructional Strategies](#)

3.7.22: [SLIFE Conference](#) Presented by MinneSLIFE and Inlier Learning (Option to attend virtually or in-person in Philadelphia.)

3.11.22: [Maine ESOL Meeting (Virtual)](#) - Registration will open soon!

3.11.22-3.12.22: [FLAME Conference (Virtual)](#) - Registration will open soon!

3.18.22-3.19.22: Multi-State Association for Bilingual Education [Dual Language Conference and Pre-Conference School Visits](#)

Summer 2022: [CARLA Summer Institutes](#) schedule now available

Articles of Interest

**Maine DOE Newsroom: Foreign Language Association of Maine Accepting Nominations For ESOL Teacher of the Year and World Languages Teacher of the Year**

**The County: After-school program aims to instill French language skills in Caribou youth**

**Learning for Justice: How Are You Teaching Black History?**

**Maine DOE Newsroom: South Portland Students’ Poetry Featured in Community Celebration of ‘Hope and Light’**

**EdSource: How Congress can help students learning English**

**Bangor Daily News: Opinion: I mispronounced my name for 3 decades. Not anymore.**

**Maine Public: Congolese community leader draws African immigrants to Westbrook judo program**

**Maine Public: Iraqi, Somali entrepreneurs launch clothing and jewelry businesses, celebrating Muslim fashion in Maine**
ACCESS Administration Window Open 1/10/22 – 3/4/22

Important Reminders! Please reach out to Jodi:

- If you have a student who has moved or transferred out of the district
- If you have a new student who has enrolled from another Maine SAU, and you need to confirm whether the student has already begun/completed ACCESS testing for the 21-22 SY
- If you would like a DOE Assessment Team member to provide onsite technical assistance during this year’s ACCESS for ELLs administration window, please don’t hesitate to reach out. Technical assistance can include many elements based on the needs of the SAU, such as modeling an assessment administration, observation of an assessment administration, or answering questions regarding EL assessment and services.

The Assessment Team is asking local ACCESS Assessment Coordinators/Administrators plan to conduct at least one assessment observation within the SAU during the Winter 2022 ACCESS for ELLs administration, using the updated Observational Checklist Tool. Data from these local observations can yield contextual and situational data to be used in conjunction with quantitative sources, to provide a better picture of the quality and equity of administration of assessments across Maine SAUs and schools. The Maine DOE Assessment Team utilizes this information to design planning and professional development for the upcoming school year, as well as to gather critical data about the student assessment experience.

Observational Checklist Tool

WIDA Requests Grades 1-3 Writing Response Booklets Returned

WIDA requests that districts send their completed writing booklets in Grades 1-3 back to DRC as soon as possible, rather than at the end of the assessment window. As a reminder, WIDA uses these test results to conduct an annual score verification that helps ensure quality of scoring.

Questions? Concerns? Please don’t hesitate to reach out:
Jodi Bossio-Smith, State Coordinator for Alternate and WIDA Assessments
Jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov
207.530.1462

Professional Development Series with Liz Kleinrock, nationally recognized author with Teaching Tolerance on Anti-racist and Anti-bias Education

Are you interested in learning about anti-racist and anti-bias education? If so, register for this no-cost training with Liz Kleinrock, the anti-racist and anti-bias educator who won the 2018 Teaching Tolerance Award for Excellence in Equity. She will share her expertise about having difficult conversations in the classroom about race and ethnicity. Don’t miss this three-part professional development series, to how “Education is Everywhere” (2019 Ted Talk). Sponsored by the Maine County and State Teachers of the Year Association, this series is offered at no cost. Zoom link will be sent to registrants prior to sessions. To receive four contact hours, please commit to all three sessions.

Session 1: February 8, 2022, 7-8:15 pm
Session 2: March 15, 2022, 7-8:15 pm
Session 3: April 5th, 2022, 7-8 pm

Register here
Job Opportunities

Center for Applied Linguistics Director of PreK-12 Language and Literacy

MSAD 33 Middle/High School French Teacher

St. John’s Catholic School Long Term Substitute - Music & Latin Teacher (PK-8)

RSU 44 Spanish Substitute Teacher

Garbanzo Writer for ELLs (Part-Time/Remote Materials Creation) - Spanish proficiency required

RSU 19 is seeking a consultant teacher who can assist with ACCESS for ELLs test administration. If you’re interested, contact Stella Duhaime, Assistant Director of Special Services, at sduhaime@rsu19.net.

Vermont DOE Education Programs Coordinator 1: English Language Learners

Cape Elizabeth ELL Ed Tech III

The New School (Private School in Kennebunk) Spanish Teacher and American Sign Language Teacher

RSU 64 High School Spanish Teacher

RSU 4 High School French Teacher

Winthrop Remote High School Spanish Teacher

South Portland Multilingual/Multicultural Specialist (Part-Time)

South Portland Community Partnerships Coordinator (Part-Time)

RSU 57 High School French Teacher

Brewer Long-Term Substitute French Teacher

Westbrook Communications Specialist

Auburn Cultural Broker/Interpreter Park Ave Elementary

Monthly ESOL Office Hours

An informal opportunity to connect with DOE staff and teaching colleagues

At least five registrants are required in order for office hours to be held.

3rd Wednesday of Each Month

Next: 2.16.22 at 3:00pm

Focus Topic: Family Engagement & Approaching the End of the ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Administration Window

Register by 2.13.22

Announcements

Study Abroad Scholarship Opportunity

The Center for International Education Exchange has extended the deadline for scholarship applications for the Global Navigator High School Study Abroad Program. Applications will be accepted through 2.16.22. For more information, contact hsabroad@ciee.org or 1.866.583.0332.

Maine Virtual Career Fair

On March 22-23, Maine C3, in partnership with ACTEM and Maine DOE, present this virtual event for all Maine middle school and high schoolers to learn about their career options. See flyer here.

Taiwan Foreign English Teacher Program

As part of its formal partnership with the Chinese Ministry of Education (Taiwan), the Maine DOE would like to announce that the Taiwan Foreign English Teacher Program is now accepting applications. If you’re interested in an opportunity to grow your teaching and intercultural skills abroad, this is a great opportunity.

SPACE Hosts Somali Author

On 1.29.22 at 6pm, SPACE is hosting an evening with Shugri Said Salih, author of The Last Nomad: Coming of Age in the Somali Desert. This event is free, but RSVP is requested.

Bangor Chinese School Events

To celebrate the Lunar New Year, Year of the Tiger, the CLCCM and Bangor Chinese School in collaboration with Husson University and the City of Bangor will present calligraphy lessons and a New Year Celebration.