Message

At this year’s Maine ESOL Meeting on 3.11.22 (virtual), we hope to include a student panel discussion. The panel is tentatively scheduled for 11am. If you have current or former EL students who may be interested in sharing their experiences, please encourage them to apply. Applications for the student panel discussion are due 2.18.22. Parents/guardians must sign a Maine DOE media release, as the event will be recorded and posted to the Maine DOE YouTube channel. If you, your students, or their parents/guardians have any questions, please contact me at april.perkins@maine.gov.

- 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

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Can you tell me a little bit about your background? What motivated you to become a teacher?
My parents came to the U.S. in 1970 from the Philippines. Leaving family, community, and country was a very difficult and scary decision for my dad to make, but he knew it was the best way to support a family. He joined the U.S. Navy, which brought us to Connecticut. This was a culture shock for my parents who held tight to their culture and language in a place where there were few Filipino families. It was not until I was five years old, starting Kindergarten, that I was exposed to English. I don’t have any memories about the difficulties learning English, but my mother said for the first month of school I would come home crying because nobody spoke Tagalog. My parents were taught English in school in the Philippines, so when I started K, they were able to support my English. They mentioned that once I had a grasp of English, my Tagalog seemed to fade away, which I think makes them sad. I was in a state that was predominantly white, so I feel there was pressure on all of us to assimilate as quickly as possible. I had very kind and patient teachers in elementary school and goal-oriented parents, which shaped how I felt about school and education. They always said, “An education is something that nobody will ever be able to take away from you” and I find myself saying that to my own son. Remembering the sacrifices my parents made and the opportunities I was given living here in the United States motivated me to choose a profession where I felt I could give back.

How are you working with your district to prepare to meet the needs of the new EL students in your district?
I am very fortunate to be working in a school district that is supportive and welcoming of newcomer families. Although this is a big change for Freeport schools, I think teachers and administrators are excited, nervous, and inspired to meet EL needs. I know that teachers are very interested in a student’s English proficiency, but I also try to share anecdotal and more personal student information so that relationships can be made quickly within the classroom. My message to teachers is to work on connections and community building - academic learning can’t happen unless ELs feel safe and valued.

How do you navigate having different levels of learners in your classroom?
Up until very recently, I was able to do my work individually or in a small group of two based on skill level. This will be changing very soon as our school district is getting more ELs. I imagine it will be a challenge, but it is something I view as a positive. Students will have interactions with one another across language levels, which will foster organic conversations and an environment where students can learn from one another.

If there was one piece of education policy that could be immediately implemented in the district, what would you choose?
I think everyone can agree that the biggest piece of education policy is working for smaller class sizes. I taught in California for 17 years, where K-3 classes have 24 students and 4th and 5th grades could have up to 35 students, so I know how high numbers can affect student learning. Maine is nowhere near those numbers. We need to protect current class sizes and work to find funding for more classroom teachers. Everyone benefits when teachers can spend more time among students. Purposeful planning, meaningful lessons, and time devoted to meeting with students is beneficial for every child. The EL population is especially vulnerable when teachers are spread too thin.

This year’s Read to ME Challenge kicked off on February 1st! Read to ME is a public awareness campaign to focus on literacy for children of all ages. World languages/ESOL teachers and multilingual families are encouraged to participate by reading aloud to children in any language and posting a photo or short video to social media using the #ReadtoME hashtag. Let’s show the true diversity of languages in Maine schools and read to students in their first languages or the languages they are learning! If you have any questions, contact Dee Saucier, Elementary Literacy Specialist, at danielle.m.saucier@maine.gov.
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

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

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Articles of Interest

Maine DOE Newsroom: Apply for the Maine Seal of Biliteracy

Maine DOE Newsroom: Extension of ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Assessment Administration Window

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

Portland Phoenix: Community engaged: Spanish-language discussions pay off for Portland schools

WGME: Freeport turns vacant hotel into emergency shelter for asylum seekers

Maine DOE Newsroom: Students Celebrate Passamaquoddy Language and Culture Through Food - A Feature by the Maine Migrant Education Program
ACCESS Administration Window Open 1/10/22 – 3/18/22

The ACCESS administration window has been extended to 3/18/22. See this Maine DOE Newsroom article for more details: Extension of ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Assessment Administration Window

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

Maine Seal of Biliteracy

Do you have students graduating this year who are bilingual or multilingual? Encourage them to apply for the Maine Seal of Biliteracy! See the website for details about eligibility criteria, assessment options, the online application, and FAQ. Applications are due 5/15/22*. Contact April Perkins at april.perkins@maine.gov with any questions.

Maine Seal of Biliteracy Overview Webinar

*Students whose AP or IB exam scores are not available by May 15th can apply through 7/15/22.
Job Opportunities

WIDA Researcher

South Portland ELL TEACHER (GRADES K-12) - REMAINDER OF 21-22 SY

MSAD 54 Part-Time ELL Tutors (Elementary/Middle School)

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

RSU 64 High School Spanish Teacher

RSU 4 High School French Teacher

Winthrop Remote High School Spanish Teacher

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

Note that the date has changed to Monday 2.14.22. Jodi and I will be attending national-level meetings on Wednesday. Thanks for your flexibility!

Next: 2.14.22 at 3:00pm
Focus Topic: Family Engagement & Approaching the End of the ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Administration Window

Register by 2.9.22

Announcements

Summer Courses in Spain
The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain invites Maine Spanish teachers to apply to travel to Spain and attend a three-week course this summer. Applications are due April 1st. Details, including costs and the application, can be found here.

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.

Undergraduate/Graduate Scholarships to Study in Taiwan
The 2022 Taiwan Scholarship Program and the 2022 Huayu Enrichment Scholarship (HES) funded by the Ministry of Education, Republic of China (Taiwan) have been published. The guidelines and application forms are available here. Application deadline is 3.31.22.