Message

I’m pleased to share with you that the Maine ESOL Meeting and the FLAME Conference are joining forces this year, to offer a full day of virtual events for language educators across Maine on 3.12.22. See page 3 for a tentative outline of the day’s offerings. We look forward to seeing you there!

There will be no newsletter next week. Wishing you all a very restful and reenergizing February break!

April Perkins
Can you tell me a little bit about your background? What motivated you to become a teacher?
My background is in sociology. After college, I did a year in AmeriCorps in Boston, and that introduced me to the idea of education. We were working in schools all over the city that were serving students from all over the world. I worked with many English language learners, and our program focused on literacy. It inspired me to get involved in education. Following that, I applied to USM for a Master’s in Education with a concentration in what was then called ESL. It was a great program. During my time there, I worked in Portland Public Schools, and I also did literacy work through the university. Through the connections and relationships I made at that program, I became a district-wide ELL teacher near where I am originally from in Maine. During my years at that first job, I worked with different administrators and through those relationships, I was asked to start consulting with districts who did not have qualified ELL staff. Now, I primarily work as an ELL consultant throughout mid-coast and central Maine.

What does your day-to-day look like and how has your teaching experience influenced your consultancy work?
The consultancy model has been evolving over a couple of years, which has actually brought me back to doing some instruction now. For example, I do virtual instruction for some remote districts who are not able to track down an ELL teacher in their area. If their district has one ELL student, I may spend an hour in the morning teaching a virtual class to that one student. Then I hop in the car and drive to another district to do in-person student instruction, and teacher-to-teacher support. My days often involve screening students, whether that is for English proficiency or placement. This time of year, administering the ACCESS for ELLs fills most of my time. I guide districts in best practices and developing policies, along with helping them create individual plans for their students. Another piece is training other staff members in the school to work with English learners to build proficiency. I also help schools to understand their responsibility for communication with parents who are not proficient in English. Building a platform of services and resources for schools to communicate with and empower parents is really important.

How do you navigate working with different levels of learners throughout the day?
Especially as a new teacher, that was the piece that took me some time to figure out. It was probably two to three years before I felt confident in those skills. Part of that was being a new teacher and not having a library of resources to pull from. I had to find the approaches that worked well for me and how to diversify them to meet students of different language proficiency levels and grade levels. Now that I have been doing this for 20 years, it’s much easier. I know what protocols and tasks work for students in terms of vocabulary, academic language, and sentence structure. It's really in the planning. You have to put in the time, which is hard when you are the ELL teacher for a whole district. A lot of your time is eaten up in transportation when you are traveling from school to school. You may only have 45 minutes with a student. It takes a lot of time and organization to fine-tune the skills that make your time as effective as possible.

If there was one piece of education policy that could be immediately implemented, what would you choose?
The policy I would like to see is for all educators in Maine to have at least one class in ESOL. It would be great if all educators could come into the classroom with the background to approach teaching English language learners with confidence. It would be ideal if administrators could have that training, as well. I think that is a big piece that is missing.
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

2.18.22 at 2pm: EdWeek Intersection Collective: Disability + BIPOC Youth

2.24.22 at 2pm: National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth Celebrating Cultural Awareness: Practices and Policies for Homeless Liaisons

2.24.22 at 7pm: ACTFL From Research to Practice: Not Your Typical Book Club Discussion of Charlotte Hancock’s 2022 Foreign Language Annals article, The Seal of Biliteracy: A 10-year retrospective.

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.)

3.12.22: FLAME Conference featuring the Maine ESOL Meeting (Virtual) - Registration for ESOL teachers who are not yet FLAME members will open after February break!

3.18.22-3.19.22: Multi-State Association for Bilingual Education Dual Language Conference and Pre-Conference School Visits

3.22.22-3.25.22: TESOL Convention


Summer 2022: CARLA Summer Institutes schedule now available

7.25.22-7.29.22 CARLA Teaching Language through the Lens of Social Justice

Maine ESOL Meeting and FLAME Conference: Tentative Schedule of Events

8:30-9:00 Login and Social Time
9:00-9:30 ESOL Welcome and Plenary
9:30-10:30 Keynote by Young-chan Han, Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, “Realizing our Shared Responsibility”
10:30-11:30 Awards, Voting, President’s Speech, DOE Specialist Speech
11:30-12:30 Lunch/Group Meetings (AATF, AATG, ESOL, Spanish, Latin, Chinese, Just Chatting)
12:30-1:30 Keynote by Idioma Language Consulting on SEL in the Second Language Classroom

Articles of Interest

BBC: Why are we learning languages in a closed world?

New York Times: Student Opinion - How Important Is Knowing a Foreign Language?

EdWeek: Essential Practices for Building Literacy in Older English-Learners

Colorín Colorado: The Substitute Teacher Shortage: Impacts on ELLs and ELL Educators

Mano en Mano: Juana Rodriguez Vazquez named Executive Director of Mano en Mano

New America: Building Better Bridges Into Higher Education for English Learners

OELA: Factsheet on ELs in Career and Technical Education

Language Magazine: New National Effort to Address Effective Literacy for Multilingual Learners
ACCESS Administration Window Open 1/10/22 – 3/18/22

Materials must be shipped to DRC no later than 3/21/22!!

.telegram

**IMPORTANT REMINDER TO EL COORDINATORS:** The Assessment Team requests District Test Coordinators to conduct at least one local assessment observation during the Winter 2022 ACCESS for ELLs administration, using the updated Observational Checklist Tool.

**Observational Checklist Tool**

**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! Technical assistance can include many elements based on the needs of the SAU, such as modeling an assessment administration, observation of an assessment administration, and answering questions regarding EL assessment and services.

**Reminder:** Please send completed Grades 1-3 writing booklets back to WIDA DRC as soon as possible. You do not need to wait until the district has completed all testing, or the assessment window closes.

All completed test booklets and secure test materials must be shipped back to DRC no later than March 21st, 2022. This will ensure that while we have extended the window for this year, Maine SAUs will still receive student data prior to the close of the school year.

**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

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**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

AOS 91 French Teacher
Augusta ESOL Ed Tech II Part-Time
Freeport ELL Teacher
Biddeford ELL Middle School Classroom Teacher
Sebago Part-Time ESL Teacher (2022-23)
RSU 5 Long-Term Sub Spanish Teacher 7th/8th Grade
Maine Central Institute Spanish Teacher (Anticipated)
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
St. John’s Catholic School Long Term Substitute - Music & Latin Teacher (PK-8)
RSU 44 Spanish Teacher
Cape Elizabeth ELL Ed Tech III
RSU 64 High School Spanish Teacher
Winthrop Remote High School Spanish Teacher
RSU 57 High School French Teacher

Announcements

Scholarships for Immigrant Students
ProsperityME is offering scholarships to students who are not eligible for financial aid through the FAFSA. Applications are due by 3.1.22. See more details here.

Free Screening of “Le Carrefour” at USM
On 3.19.22 at 5pm, Alliance Française is offering a free public screening of this documentary film, which centers on the intersection of francophone communities in Maine. RSVP to afdume@gmail.com.

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.

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.

Monthly ESOL Office Hours

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

Next: 3.16.22 at 3:00pm
Focus Topic: Family Engagement & Approaching the End of the ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Administration Window
Register by 3.13.22