Message

- An announcement is forthcoming from the DOE Newsroom regarding our shift from the term “English learners” to the more asset-based term “multilingual learners.” The Maine DOE website, resources, and professional learning offerings will begin to refer to students learning English in this way, and I hope that you will be able to make this shift in your schools as well.
- The Multilingual Education Task Force is now accepting applications from educators and community members interested in learning more about bilingual programs and promoting them in Maine schools. See more details and the application: Seeking Education Stakeholders for Multilingual Education Task Force.
- Ramadan is set to begin on Friday, April 1st. Here is a brief article from the Maine DOE Newsroom: Tips for Supporting Muslim Students During Ramadan and Eid-al-Fitr.
**Educator Highlight**

This week, intern Isabel Honigman, interviewed Jessica Rosado, the RSU 21 ELL Teacher.

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

I grew up in Maine and I come from a family of teachers. So when I went to college, I tried really hard to not be a teacher. But I couldn’t help myself. Teaching is in my blood. After a few years of teaching, I left to fulfill a dream I had always had which was to be a member of the Peace Corps. I served in a country called Vanuatu as a teacher trainer for 3 years. That experience really opened my eyes to the joy of teaching language learners and privileges of the United States educational system. After my Peace Corps service, I knew I wanted to work in public schools with ELL students. So through the Peace Corps Coverdell Fellows program at University of Arizona, I received my Master’s in language, reading, and culture. The professors in my graduate program were inspiring and the theory and practice I learned there I carry with me and lean on when faced with a challenge. My experiences at the U of A and the process of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher in English as a New Language have kept me constantly reflecting on my practice and growing as a teacher, which is one of the things I love about this profession.

What is the most significant breakthrough moment you have experienced with a student?

I think it’s that moment when a newcomer demonstrates their voice and blows you away with their comfort in speaking and their confidence. It is the best feeling when your students have the empowerment to be able to express what you always knew they could do.

How do you navigate working with different levels of learners in the classroom?

Flexibility, systems, and I think just establishing a community where students see themselves not only as students but as teachers. If I am working with someone, the students know there are other “teachers” in the room that can help them. Often the deepest learning comes from when students are learning from other students.

If there was one piece of education policy that could be immediately implemented, what would you choose?

I would love to see all teachers receive ELL training. If they have a student come into their classroom, they would feel empowered with strategies to teach them. It is something we are capable of and something that would not be too complicated to implement.

How do you think your teaching style differs from other teachers and what is most important to you in the classroom?

I always emphasize tapping into my students’ funds of knowledge. I really value getting to know their families and their cultures in order to validate what they already know. It can be reflected in our classroom. That is one thing I have definitely stolen from my graduate professors.
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

Self-Paced Online Course: University of Minnesota **Improving Instruction of English Learners through Accessibility Decision Making**

3.27.22-11.20.22: Pejepscot History Center **The Immigrant Experience: A Spring and Fall Book Discussion Group**

3.30.22 4:00-5:30pm: NNETESOL presents Dr. Andrea Honigsfeld **Equity Strategies for Collaboratively Teaching Multilingual Learners**

3.30.33 at 1:30pm: Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium **Innovative Partnerships Supporting Families in Title I School Communities**

4.2.22 and 4.9.22 11am-2pm: French Embassy "Favoriser l'apprentissage de la phonétique" avec IFrançois Blondel

4.4.22 at 6:30pm: Alliance Française **How do French Presidential Elections work?**

4.5.22-4.7.22: Pennsylvania Department of Education **English Language Development Virtual Professional Learning Summit: Reimagining Equitable Access for Multilingual Learners** Free and open to all! Check out the headliners!

4.22.22-4.24.22: **National Chinese Language Conference**

4.23.22 and 4.30.22 11am-2pm: French Embassy "Exploiter le jeu à des fins pédagogiques" avec Julien Cardon

7.17.22-7.23.22: **Deutsche Woche in Bar Harbor**

Summer 2022: **CARLA Summer Institutes** schedule now available

Articles of Interest

**Maine DOE Newsroom**: Seeking Education Stakeholders for the Multilingual Education Task Force

**Amjambo Africa**: Lewiston’s new DEI director has ambitious goals for the city

**Bangor Daily News**: He grew up an Iraqi refugee. Now he is raising money for young writers across Maine.

**Amjambo Africa**: Mana Abdi of Lewiston seeks Maine House seat

**The Conversation**: Africa and the French language are growing together in global importance

**KQED**: 'Our Own Journeys': The Growing Push for More Bilingual Children's Books in Schools and Libraries

**The County**: Caribou students win first place in the National French Media Contest for their short film about Acadians in Northern Maine
A sincere congratulations to all Maine SAUs serving English learners for their significant efforts to complete ACCESS assessments this year!

Looking to next year: ACCESS data/reports will be available to Maine SAUs beginning 5/9/22 via WIDA AMS. Printed reports will be received by 5/25/22.

Reminder: 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.

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.

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

The Maine DOE is getting ready to launch the Multilingual Education Task Force, which will be a group of educators and other community members interested in promoting bilingual programs in Maine. The Task Force will be cofacilitated by the Multistate Association for Bilingual Education. All language educators are encouraged to participate!!

- Are you interested in learning more about bilingual/dual language education?
- Would you like to gain knowledge and skills for advocating for bilingual education in your school?
- Do you want to start taking concrete steps towards implementation of a bilingual program?

Apply today to be part of this groundbreaking Task Force! In the first phase, there will be three meetings across April and May, TBD. Contact April Perkins with any questions.
Job Opportunities

Yarmouth HS Spanish Teacher
AOS 90 Spanish Teacher
Baxter Academies of Maine Spanish Teacher
RSU 2 MS World Language Teacher (2022-23)
Cape Elizabeth Spanish/French Teacher
Maine Central Institute Spanish Teacher (Anticipated)
Ashwood Waldorf School Part-Time French Teacher
RSU 03 ELL Teacher
Fryeburg Academy ESOL Teacher
George Stevens Academy French Teacher
Winthrop Grades 7-12 Spanish Teacher (2022-23)
Lincoln Academy Spanish Teacher
USM Part-Time Faculty in Linguistics (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, and Spanish)
AOS 91 French Teacher
Augusta ESOL Ed Tech II Part-Time
Biddeford ELL Middle School Classroom Teacher
Sebago Part-Time ESL Teacher (2022-23)
MSAD 54 Part-Time ELL Tutors (Elementary/Middle School)
St. John’s Catholic School Long Term Substitute - Music & Latin Teacher (PK-8)
RSU 44 Spanish Teacher
RSU 64 High School Spanish Teacher

Announcements

Week of the Young Child
The Early Learning Team is collecting photos and videos of early childhood educators engaged in high-quality learning experiences for young children (centered around specific themes). These will be used to celebrate the Week of the Young Child. If you are interested in sharing a photo/video (due by March 30th), get more details about the parameters by contacting Nicole Madore at nicole.madore@maine.gov.

Amjambo Africa Summer Internship
If you have an outstanding student who is interested in culture, immigration, and media, this internship may be a great chance to develop their skills. There is a $2200 stipend, and the internship is for 15 hours/week for 10 weeks. For more details or to apply, students should send a letter of interest and a writing or video production sample to Kit Harrison, Editor in Chief, at amjamboafrica@gmail.com.

AATF Scholarships
AATF-Maine is offering 2 scholarships: 1 for students: the Laurianna Boucher scholarship, and 1 for teachers: the Richard Williamson scholarship. Deadline to apply is May 13, 2022. For questions, email goreyn@link75.org.

AATF Professional Learning
AATF-Maine is organizing its Summer 2022 Institute, in collaboration with le Francoforum! Teachers will have the opportunity to travel to the French islands of St Pierre-et-Miquelon and spend a week immersing themselves in the language and culture. Here are all the details and the registration form. The deadline to preregister is 3.28.22.

USM Summer Camp
July 11-15, USM is offering a summer camp called Playing with Language for children ages 9-12. See the flyer for details.

New French Courses
The Alliance Française du Maine has published its new program of Spring classes. Check out the diverse and exciting courses: www.afdume.org.

Free Online French Heritage Class
Students ages 14-18 (Grades 9-12) who are French heritage speakers are welcome to participate in a new class offered by Alliance Française. Taught by experienced francophone teacher Alexis Kanamugire, the class will be held Thursdays from 4-5 for eight weeks starting April 4th. To register, go to www.afdume.org.

Monthly ESOL Office Hours

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

Next: 4.13.22 at 3:00pm
Focus Topic: Family Engagement

Register by 4.10.22