As I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, as the Department shifts towards a whole-student, interdisciplinary approach to learning, content-area teachers (including World Languages teachers) will be receiving a biweekly newsletter called Education Innovation. This week’s edition of Language Educators News will be the final joint newsletter for ESOL and World Languages, but there will still be many opportunities for ESOL and World Languages teachers to work together towards our shared objective of high-quality language-learning opportunities for all students, particularly as FLAME transitions to a more inclusive name and broader reach.

If you are a World Languages teacher and would like to continue to receive weekly updates on bilingual education, cultural events, and articles of interest related to language learning, you are welcome to subscribe to the ESOL listserv [here](mailto:april.perkins@maine.gov).

It has been an honor to serve as your World Languages Specialist for the past year, and I will continue to be an advocate for language learning here at the Department and as part of the FLAME Board. You are most welcome to reach out to me if you have any questions or if I can support your work in any way.

**April Perkins**
Educator Highlight
This week, intern Isabel Honigman, interviewed Laura Wittmann, ESOL teacher and district coordinator in Bangor.

Can you tell me a little bit about your background? What motivated you to become a teacher?
My mother was a teacher, and I grew up with education in my house, or discussions about what happened that day. She was a GT teacher in NC, called an AG teacher at the time, but she transitioned to special education. She was really good at meeting kids where they were and making the curriculum accessible to them and their needs. Also, I was a camp counselor for 5-10 years in the mountains of North Carolina and I think working with kids to solve problems in the outdoors taught me how to apply those leadership skills to a classroom and to a teaching environment. That type of work really interested me. I thought I was going to be a history teacher because I was interested in the people behind the facts. But I became a Spanish teacher in Washington, DC. I became an ML (multilingual learner) teacher after going to school in the 90s for ML education and then came to Bangor. Originally, I taught both Spanish and ML and only recently did I become just an ML teacher. I love learning about other countries and how other people live. I want to bring my students’ experiences to lives into the classroom and make it relevant to what they are learning and experiencing right now.

How does your work as a district coordinator inform your teaching and vice versa?
As a district coordinator, I have a big picture of what is happening in the district and student needs. I also have a unique position in that I get to go into kids’ classrooms and get to see so many different types of lessons and teaching strategies. I see so much good teaching every week at so many different levels. I think having that opportunity across the district to see how teachers present lessons has made my teaching better. In addition to that, because I go in and out of classrooms, I see the arc of a curriculum. Most teachers do not have that opportunity and only get to see what they teach. Conversely, when I am talking to other teachers, I can relate as a teacher rather than just as a coordinator, in terms of aspects of the overall curriculum or parts of a lesson that students may be struggling with. I have to plan lessons every Sunday night and attend early morning meetings just like all teachers, so we can share the same teacher-language.

As a district coordinator, what piece of education policy, if immediately implemented, would have the best impact on ML students?
I wish that the state of Maine would require all new teachers to have to take an intro to ML students the same way they have to take one for special education students. There are so many Maine mainstream or content teachers that have never had that training, and in other states that is not the case. I think it is a place that Maine could improve on.

What piece of advice or training would you give to help non-ML teachers work with ML students?
I think the biggest piece of advice I give when I go to work with a content teacher is that although this kid may not be able to do read the content in English at the same grade level as their peers, this student has a whole other valid experience and skills that the monolingualistic students in your class do not have. How can you bring that student’s experiences into your lesson and validate what they already know? If you can get that student to connect to you via that prior knowledge, everything else will follow from there.
Professional Learning

All virtual Maine DOE offerings will be recorded and posted to the Maine DOE [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com) 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](https://www.coursesite.com)

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

4.4.22 at 6:30pm: Alliance Française [How do French Presidential Elections work?](https://www.alliancefrancaise.org)

4.5.22-4.7.22: Pennsylvania Department of Education [English Language Development Virtual Professional Learning Summit: Reimagining Equitable Access for Multilingual Learners](https://www.pdesa.gov) Free and open to all! Check out the headliners!


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](https://www.deutschewochebarharbormaine.org)


Summer 2022: [CARLA Summer Institutes](https://www.carla.org) schedule now available

Articles of Interest

[Maine DOE Newsroom: Honoring and Celebrating All Languages Spoken By Maine Students With the Shift to Multilingual Learners Terminology](https://maine.gov)

[Maine DOE Newsroom: Foreign Language Association of Maine Announces Recognition Awards](https://mainedoe.gov)

[Kennebec Journal: Beloved Cony German teacher wins Maine Foreign Language Teacher of the Year](https://www.kennebecjournal.com)

[Maine DOE Newsroom: Considerations for Schools Supporting Observances During School Year- Ramadan Begins](https://maine.gov)

[Maine DOE Newsroom: Seeking Education Stakeholders for the Multilingual Education Task Force](https://maine.gov)

[Bangor High School News: Bangor High School Students Win 2021 AATF National French Week Media Contest](https://www.bangorhigh.org)

[Amjambo Africa: Brunswick Opens Welcome Center](https://www.amjamboafrica.com)

[Language Magazine: Creating a Supportive SEL Forum for English Learner Lesson Contributions](https://www.languagemagazine.com)
ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Administration

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.

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.

Multilingual Education Task Force

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

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!! About 50 people have already applied!

- 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! We will meet on the following dates from 3-5pm via Zoom.

- May 5, 2022: Examination of opportunities to implement dual language education programs
- May 12, 2022: Identifying the challenges and solutions to implement dual language education programs
- May 23, 2022: Begin a strategic plan to build the foundation to implement dual language education programs
Announcements

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

ELLevation Scholarships
ELLevation is offering scholarships of up to $2000 for multilingual learners. See this blog for details and the application link. Applications are due May 12, 2022.

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

ESOL/Bilingual Job Opportunities

RSU 21 Teacher of ELLs
RSU 03 ELL Teacher
Fryeburg Academy ESOL Teacher
Augusta ESOL Ed Tech II Part-Time
Sebago Part-Time ESL Teacher (2022-23)
MSAD 54 Part-Time ELL Tutors (Elementary/Middle School)