ESOL and Multilingual & Bilingual Education
Updates
December 2024

As part of our commitment to streamline communication and enhance accessibility, the ESOL Listserv will serve as the primary channel for sharing professional development opportunities, updates on assessments, guidance, policy changes, and various resources designed to support educators of multilingual learners. Through the Listserv, you will receive timely, targeted information and resources to stay informed and equipped for effective instruction and support.

To better serve our educational community, we will no longer issue a quarterly ESOL newsletter. Instead, we focus on regularly updating the Maine DOE website to house the most current information. This transition will allow for more frequent updates and an easier way for educators to access guidance and resources at their convenience. 📅 Professional Learning *💻Resource *▶ ▶ ▶ Important Updates ▶ ▶ ▶

Maine DOE ESOL and Multilingual & Bilingual Education

1. 💻 **ML Teacher Leader Fellow YouTube Series** and their accompanying resources are on the Multilingual Learner Resource page.

   Discover the latest projects from our talented Multilingual Teacher Leader Fellows! Each resource is thoughtfully crafted to support educators like you, featuring quick and engaging videos under 15 minutes and easy-to-use one-pagers or infographics. These tools are perfect for your classroom or school community.

Rebecca Carey Area of Focus: Elementary Newcomer	**Melissa Frans** Area of focus: MLs with Disabilities	**Jenny Lunt** Area of focus: Secondary Newcomer
Dual Language Learners, PreK and Early Childhood *Video *PPT *Dual Language Learners Focused Practices	Multilingual Learners with Disabilities Policy and Resource Guide: Intervention Procedures *Video * Process for Multilingual Learners using Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports * MTSS/RTI Checklist for MLs: Distinguishing Language Difference from Disability	Orientation Checklist for New Multilingual Students *Video *Orientation Checklist- New Multilingual Student
These passionate professionals leverage their expertise to design impactful professional development opportunities and create practical resources to support educators working with multilingual learners. We believe the best ideas come from those in the field, and we want to hear from YOU! If your district has ideas, needs, or specific topics you'd like us to address in upcoming professional development sessions or resource development, please submit an idea. Your input will help us ensure that the content and resources we create are relevant, meaningful, and tailored to Maine's diverse educational communities' unique needs.		

2. 📅 **ML with Disabilities Professional Learning Series**
   The Intersection of English Language Acquisition and Individualized Education Programs
   January-June 2025

Target Audience: Special Education Teachers, Case Managers, and ESOL Teachers. School and district teams are encouraged to attend together.

Facilitators:

- Leora Byras (Leora.Byras@maine.gov) Education Specialist, Office of Special Services and Inclusive Education (OSSIE)
- Melissa Frans (Melissa.Frans@maine.gov), Teacher Leader Fellow for Multilingual Learners with Disabilities

This six-session professional learning community is designed for educators to grow their knowledge in supporting multilingual learners with disabilities. The goal is to increase collaboration and collective efficacy amongst educators to expand capacity for addressing students' linguistic, cultural and academic strengths and needs throughout their school day. The series will cover guidance and laws to ensure all students have equitable access to a free and appropriate education, specifically related to dual identified learners. *Participants will learn about the intersection of language acquisition and disability through the lens of developing linguistically responsive Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) through the integration of Individual Language Acquisition Plans (ILAPs) for multilingual students.* Dates of this series are January 21, February 27, March 18, April 29, May 22, and June 10, 2025. (all sessions are 3:30-4:30 p.m.)
Contact hours will be provided along with an anchor text. Register **here.**

3. **"Multilingual Connections" Webinar Series Celebrating Language and Culture as Educational Assets** This webinar series emphasizes the value of language and culture as key assets in education. Participants will gain practical strategies for creating multilingual pathways, learn how to leverage global partnerships, and discover ways to incorporate Indigenous and critical languages in the classroom. Webinar Overview: This session will showcase the importance of multilingualism and cultural diversity as essential resources in education. It will highlight how Maine's commitment to language learning contributes to cognitive growth, academic success, and social unity. Attendees will explore how to integrate language and cultural awareness into their classrooms, using these elements to promote global citizenship and lifelong achievement. Register here
    a. Webinar Highlights: The role of multilingualism in fostering cultural understanding and connecting communities. Maine's position in the global economy and how language skills are vital for success in diverse environments. An introduction to the Multilingual Learner Dashboard and the benefits of the Maine Seal of Biliteracy. Questions, contact Ayesha Hall (Ayesha.hall@maine.gov)
        i. January 6, 2025: Celebrating Language & Culture as Educational Assets \
        ii. February 3, 2025: Incorporating Indigenous and Critical Needs Languages into the Curriculum
        iii. March 3, 2025: Leveraging International Partnerships for Multilingual & Multicultural Opportunities
        iv. April 7, 2025: Maine Celebrates National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month
        v. May 5, 2025: Series Wrap-Up – Success Stories & Future Opportunities
4. **World Language Educator Office Hours: Building Connections and Supporting Language Learning**
    a. Join us for an engaging and collaborative hour dedicated to supporting Maine's World Language educators. This is a valuable opportunity to connect with fellow educators teaching similar content or languages, share strategies, and discuss successes and challenges in second language acquisition. During the session, we'll provide updates on statewide initiatives, resources, and professional development opportunities tailored to World Language instruction. Participants are encouraged to bring their questions, share insights, and exchange ideas to enhance their teaching practices and foster student success. Together, we'll build a strong network of World Language

educators committed to inspiring multilingualism and cultural appreciation in Maine's classrooms. Meetings will occur on the last Wednesday of each month from 3:30-4:30pm. Meeting dates are January 25, February 26, March 26, April 30, May 28, and Register once and attend as you can: Register **here.**

Maine DOE Assessment

5. ▶ ▶ ▶ **Maine DOE Assessment Updates: ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS** ▶ ▶ ▶

IMPORTANT: The following email was sent from DRC to all Maine District Test Coordinators on 12/11/2024. Please read.

TO: Maine District Test Coordinator

FROM: Data Recognition Corporation Customer Support

Date: December 11, 2024

RE: 2024-2025 Kindergarten ACCESS Student Response Booklet Printing Issue

We are writing to inform you of an issue regarding ***the Kindergarten ACCESS Student Response Booklet***. Due to a printing error, the page numbers began with "5", instead of the intended "1". This error also impacts the large print format of the Kindergarten ACCESS Student Response Booklet.
The materials you will receive on or before December 13, 2024 will include the Kindergarten ACCESS Student Response Booklets with the incorrect page numbers.

Please do not distribute or use these booklets.

DRC is actively working on reprinting all Kindergarten ACCESS Student Response Booklets. The corrected booklets will be delivered in early January. We will provide you with the delivery date, and how to identify the corrected booklets in a future communication.
Additional material order requests for Kindergarten ACCESS Student Response Booklets are also on hold until the replacement booklets are available.
You can return the unused, misprinted booklets when you return your other secure materials.
Please contact **DRC Customer Service** with any questions at WIDA@DataRecognitionCorp.com or call 1-855-787-9615 (TTY: 763-268-2889).
DRC apologizes for this error and any inconvenience you may experience.

The Test Setup Window for ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Alternate ACCESS has now begun and will last throughout your ACCESS test window.

The test setup function in WIDA AMS lets you view students and modify registrations. As you prepare for the upcoming ACCESS administration, **you should now login to** WIDA AMS **and make sure your students are entered in the appropriate registrations.**
Students that were imported into WIDA AMS via the Student Import File (Pre-ID file) have been automatically placed into generic registrations based on grade cluster and domain.

View Registrations To view and filter registrations in WIDA AMS, click the **Manage Registrations** tile on the landing page. Then, filter by the district and/or school from the site selector on the top right side of the

screen. Select the **ACCESS for ELLs - 2024-2025** Registration Window and a list of registrations for those sites will display on the View Registration(s) tab.

Important Dates

11/21/24 - 2/28/25	WIDA AMS Test Setup Available for Registrations
12/12/24 - 2/21/25	Additional Test Material Ordering Window in WIDA AMS
1/6/25 - 2/28/25	Test Window
3/11/25	Deadline for Shipping Completed Test Materials to DRC -Postmark date

- Visit our website for updates and professional learning opportunities:
  Maine Comprehensive Assessment System (MECAS) | Department of Education
  November Monthly Update: Assessment - November 2024 Worksheet - 11.5.2024.pdf

Community Updates

6. **Educators for a Multilingual Maine (EMME):** **Mission of EMME:** EMME aims to promote and enhance the study and appreciation of languages and cultures in Maine. We encourage the exchange of ideas among members to clarify the role of multilingualism and multiculturalism in our schools and communities. Our organization advocates for marginalized communities and strives to foster professional connections across all languages. This is a fantastic opportunity for educators to enhance their teaching strategies and connect with like-minded professionals. We look forward to seeing you at the conference!
   a. For full details and registration information, please visit our website.
   b. **Annual Conference:** We are excited to announce two upcoming events that will serve as valuable resources for language educators. **EMME Language Conference Featuring Keynote by Sally Barnes:** Join the EMME community for our upcoming conference dedicated to promoting language education in Maine! We are excited to welcome **Sally Barnes**, co-author of *Seven Steps to a Language Rich, Interactive World Language Classroom (2nd Edition)*, as our keynote speaker.

      Conference Highlights:

      Keynote Presentation: Sally Barnes will share research-based strategies for enhancing World Language instruction. She will discuss critical topics such as motivation, access to language, and characteristics of high-quality instruction. Attendees will learn how to effectively implement these strategies in their classrooms.

      Workshops: Following the keynote, Sally will lead interactive workshops focusing on the Seven Steps in various world languages, including Arabic, ASL, Chinese, English, French, German, and Spanish. Participants will engage in dynamic activities that illustrate these strategies. In addition to the workshops provided by Sally Barnes there will be other workshops provided by educators from around the state and New England. If you are interested in offering a workshop please submit your proposal here. **Book Sales**: EMME will have copies of Sally's book available for purchase at the conference.

      Students and Colleague Recognition: Please consider recognizing the hard work of a colleagues by nominating them for one of our awards. Also consider nominating a student for one of our awards .For award descriptions click here or to nominate someone click here.
   c. **EMME sponsored Professional Development Opportunity: Upcoming Online Workshop with Anne Marie Chase**

      Don't miss our online workshop on **January 15, 2025, at 7:00 PM**! Led by **Anne Marie Chase**, this session will explore techniques to make language acquisition enjoyable and engaging. Participants will leave with practical strategies to foster a joyful and connected learning environment.

About Anne Marie Chase:
With 18 years of experience teaching high school Spanish and a Master's in Teaching Spanish, Anne Marie is passionate about creative language instruction. She also teaches World Language Methods at the University of Nevada, Reno, and shares her insights on her blog at www.senorachase.com.

7. 💻 **ELLevation's 5th Annual IMPACT Conference** 🎥 **Session Recordings & Resources**
All recorded sessions and accompanying presentation resources are now available on ELLevation's website. While three sessions were not recorded, you can access the slides and additional resources from Dr. Medina, Dr. Dorina Ebuwa, and Pamela Broussard (and find her additional session resources here).

Resources for All Districts

No matter the size of your district, the requirements to support multilingual learners are the same across the state. Regardless of your district's location, ensuring geographic equity means providing every student with the resources and supports to ensure equitable access to education. Check out these frequently downloaded resources, relevant to all districts.

1. SAU Multilingual Program Self-Assessment
2. *Updated*Maine DOE Lau Plan Template and Guidance
3. *New* WIDA Screener Check list
4. Legal Rights of Multilingual Learners Infographic
5. *Updated* Seal of Biliteracy Coordinator Guidebook

Saving this section for YOU!

8. **Do you have an update you'd like to share in the monthly update?** Topics that can be shared are professional learning opportunities, resources, or job postings (remember, this is a monthly share). Questions regarding the ESOL Listserv can be made to melanie.junkins@maine.gov. Fill out this form here.

📩**Updated Contacts:** Supporting multilingual learners is a collaborative effort that requires the expertise and coordination of multiple teams. At the Maine Department of Education, various offices are dedicated to ensuring multilingual learners receive the resources, guidance, and support they need to thrive academically and socially. Below are updated contacts for key offices and personnel who work together to promote equitable access to education for multilingual learners and their families.

Adult Education	Amy Poland Amy.Poland@maine.gov
Assessment	Jodi Bossio-Smith Jodi.Bossio-Smith@maine.gov
Alternate and ELP Assessment	Mechelle Ganglfinger Mechelle.Ganglfinger@maine.gov
Early Learning	Nicole Madore Nicole.Madore@maine.gov
ESOL	Jane Armstrong Jane.Armstrong@maine.gov
Multilingual and Bilingual Education	Melanie Junkins Melanie.Junkins@maine.gov
Office of Special Services and Inclusive Education	Leora Byras Leora.Byras@maine.gov
Title III	Daniel Weeks Daniel.Weeks@maine.gov