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## Spotlight on...Maine DOE English Language Arts Webpages

The Maine Department of Education has been making a number of improvements to its website over the past several months, including the launch of a redesigned homepage and reformatted webpages. All of these upgrades are designed to make the website more user-friendly, interactive, and focused on supporting education in Maine.

The new homepage ([www.maine.gov/doe](http://www.maine.gov/doe)) features a navigational structure organized by audiences that begins with “Students” first and builds out to “Teachers,” “Administrators,” and “Communities”. Additionally, the Maine DOE’s strategic plan, Education Evolving, is easily accessible through the homepage, and presented so that users can interact with each plan priority. Website users can also navigate using the A-Z index and the most visited pages, and can access the latest newsroom updates.

English Language Arts webpages exemplify the recent updates. When you visit the pages ([www.maine.gov/doe/ela](http://www.maine.gov/doe/ela)), you will see that the appearance and organization of resources have been improved. The valuable resources you have previously located through the pages are still there, but may now be organized a little differently. To help you better navigate the new organization, here are some tips:

1. Use the navigation links in the left hand column. All of the information contained on the webpages is now organized under the links listed below. These links remain visible no matter which page you are viewing.

English Language Arts Home  
Standards and Instruction  
Assessment  
Programs and Initiatives  
Resources

2. Additionally, as you move throughout the pages, you can easily jump back to previously viewed pages by following the links connected by arrows that appear along the top of the page. These “breadcrumbs” can help you to retrace your steps.



“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.”

~Anthony J. D’Angelo



3. Here is a quick reference guide to the new locations of some of the frequently accessed resources on the ELA pages:

Resource	New Link(s)
Content Strands of Maine’s updated ELA standards- (Reading, Writing, Listening/Speaking, Language)	Standards and Instruction link under Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts
Professional Learning Modules for Maine’s updated ELA standards	Resources in the Professional Development section under Other Resources or by module title under Standards and Instruction link
NECAP, MHSA/SAT, and SBAC assessments	Assessment link, NECAP and MHSA/SAT are under Current Assessment Programs and SBAC is under Next Generation Assessments
<i>Literacy Links</i> newsletter	Resources under Other Resources
<i>Literacy for ME</i> Initiative	ELA Homepage or Programs and Initiatives
Cross Discipline Literacy Network	Programs and Initiatives
Putting Reading First in Maine DVD Series	Resources under Other Resources

## Online Resources

### Building the Foundation

[www.centeroninstruction.org/files/Building%20the%20Foundation.pdf](http://www.centeroninstruction.org/files/Building%20the%20Foundation.pdf)

This document is based on an analysis that determined the sub-skills students need to achieve in each of the Foundational Skills (K–5) in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS): print concepts, phonological awareness, phonics and word recognition, and fluency. It also includes instructional examples aligned to the sub-skills, giving teachers samples of activity types that facilitate acquisition of the sub-skills.

### Navigating Text Complexity

[www.ccsso.org/Navigating\\_Text\\_Complexity](http://www.ccss.org/Navigating_Text_Complexity)

Understanding text complexity is essential to implementing Maine’s learning standards for ELA. But what makes a text complex and how will



## Upcoming Events



2013-14

Registration information and online registration link:

[www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me/](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me/)



it help prepare students for college and career? What tools can be used to select rich, worthy texts for classroom instruction? How can analyzing the qualitative characteristics of a text inform instruction of a text? These questions guided the development of this text complexity resource for teachers assembled by educators from more than a dozen states, including Maine, that are members of CCSSO's ELA State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards. Check out the tools available at this site.

## Professional Texts

Here are two new texts designed to support your local development of instruction aligned to Maine's updated ELA standards.

### **Rigorous Reading: 5 Access Points for Comprehending Complex Texts**

by Nancy Frey and Doug Fisher  
Corwin, 2013

The terms “close reading,” “deep reading” and “analytic reading” are frequently referenced in relationship to the updated ELA standards. In *Rigorous Reading*, Nancy Frey and Doug Fisher articulate a research-based instructional plan to assist educators in utilizing these processes effectively. Their plan includes focus on five key access points:

1. Purpose & modeling
2. Close & scaffolded reading instruction
3. Collaborative conversations
4. An independent reading staircase
5. Performance

### **Projecting Possibilities for Writers: The How, What, and Why of Designing Units of Study, K-5**

By Matt Glover and Mary Alice Berry  
Heinemann, 2012

“When you create a unit of study, it's tempting to think you know exactly what will happen on day 5, 13, or 18. But you can't know. As soon as a unit starts, we begin making adjustments. This book shares a process for projecting a unit of study so you can make decisions as you respond to students each day,” (Glover and Berry, 2012). Teachers will find this text an invaluable resource as they plan writing instruction that meets curricular objectives and students' needs.

“The love of learning,  
the sequestered nooks,  
And all the sweet  
serenity of books”

~Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow



“You cannot open a  
book without learning  
something.”

~Confucius

## Children's Literature

This month we encourage you to check out the texts being used in Maine's Raising Readers' initiative. This initiative provides children a book at each well child check up from the time they are born until the age of six. Knowing that children are familiar with these texts can make them a valuable instructional resource in your classroom and school library. Check out the Raising Readers website to review the books in this year's collection, as well as many resources related to these titles:

[www.raisingreaders.org/parents\\_and\\_families](http://www.raisingreaders.org/parents_and_families)



## News from Maine's ELA Team

In partnership with the Maine DOE, the Maine Council of English Language Arts is hosting two informational Dine and Discuss sessions about Maine's next generation assessment developed by Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. Each session, one at Kennebunk High School and one in Rockland at Oceanside High School, will be facilitated by Maine teachers who participated in range finding on last year's pilot test of the performance task full writes. While the event will include general information about the test, the focus of the evening will be on what teachers may want to consider to help their students become comfortable with both the format and literacy content expectations of the assessment. The Kennebunk High School session will be held on Oct. 24 and the Oceanside High school session will be held on Nov 14, both from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Questions generated at these events will be answered in a follow-up webinar hosted by the Maine DOE. Registration can be completed at: <http://maine-cela.eventbrite.com/>.

“I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it.”

~Pablo Picasso

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**To subscribe:** <https://mailman.informe.org/mailman/listinfo/maineliteracy>

**To view back editions:** <http://www.maine.gov/doe/ela/resources/literacy-links.html>

The Maine Department of Education's mission is to provide leadership and to collaborate with educators and learning communities in order to ensure that every learner has the opportunity to be successful.

The Maine Department of Education

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