

## ESOL Listserv Updates

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 a variety of 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. 📅 **"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](mailto:Ayesha.hall@maine.gov))
    - i. **March 3, 2025:** Leveraging International Partnerships for Multilingual & Multicultural Opportunities
    - ii. **April 7, 2025:** Maine Celebrates National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month
    - iii. **May 5, 2025:** Series Wrap-Up – Success Stories & Future Opportunities
2. 📅 **World Language Educator Office Hours: Building Connections and Supporting Language Learning** 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: February 26, March 26, April 30, May 28, and June 25, 2025. Register once and attend as you can: Register [here](#).

### Maine DOE Assessment

#### 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
<b>1/6/25 - 2/28/25</b>	Test Window
<b>3/11/25</b>	Deadline for Shipping Completed Test Materials to DRC -Postmark date

The testing window for ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Alternate ACCESS ends on **Friday, February 28, 2025**.

**Districts and schools should ensure that all students scheduled to test have done so by this date.**

You can monitor the completion of testing in [WIDA AMS](#) by utilizing the Operational Dashboard in Reporting Services.





Based on [Elementary & Secondary Education Act, or ESEA \(as amended by ESSA, 2015\)](#), a student is not required to participate in ACCESS if the ML Start Date falls less than 30 days within the close of the ELP assessment window, based on federal provision of up to 30 calendar days for LEAs (in Maine, SAUs) to screen students for potential ML status. **For SY24-25, this date is on or after January 29, 2025.**



-Reference [MECAS Guidelines, 2024-2025](#), for additional assessment information.

-Visit our website for updates and professional learning opportunities:

[Maine Comprehensive Assessment System \(MECAS\) | Department of Education](#)


### Community Updates

-  [Newsletters | NCELA - English Language Acquisition & Language Instruction Educational Programs](#)  
 Infographics include national data collection for Seal of Biliteracy and Long-Term English Learners\* as examples.  
 \*Maine refers to LTELs as “Experienced Multilingual Learners” to highlight linguistic, cultural, and experiential assets when referring to students.
-  **Last call! WIDA Can Do Descriptors: WIDA needs your input!**  
 Since the release of the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition and the Marco DALE, WIDA has been monitoring use of the [Can Do Descriptors and Los descriptors Podemos](#) to help inform the timing for updating these materials. As part of those efforts, WIDA is collecting feedback to better understand how you use these resources and how they might be enhanced in the future.  
  
**WIDA’s ask:** Complete this [5-minute survey](#) to tell WIDA how you use the Can Do Descriptors and/or Los descriptors Podemos.
-  **Nominate an expert educator for the 2025-2026 WIDA Fellow.** Deadline is March 2, 2025.  
<https://wida.wisc.edu/about/consortium/fellows>
-  **Maine Newsroom: Professional Opportunities**
  - [Registration Open for Inclusive Education Conference on April 10 – Maine DOE Newsroom](#)
  - [You’re Invited! Join the Conversation About Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Practices in Maine](#)

7.  **Center for Applied Linguistics:** Are you a K-16 world language educator interested in learning about the fundamentals of assessment? This spring, the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) will offer a free, five-week online course about assessment. Learn more and apply by February 14, 2025.  
[Assessment Basics Spring 2025 Application Survey](#)
8.  **Educators for a Multilingual Maine (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!  
For full details and registration information, please visit [our website](#).

**Saving this section for YOU!**

9. **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 (keep in mind, this is a monthly share). Questions regarding the ESOL Listserv can be made to [melanie.junkins@maine.gov](mailto:melanie.junkins@maine.gov). Fill out this form [here](#).

10.  **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 <a href="mailto:Amy.Poland@maine.gov">Amy.Poland@maine.gov</a>
Assessment	Jodi Bossio-Smith <a href="mailto:Jodi.Bossio-Smith@maine.gov">Jodi.Bossio-Smith@maine.gov</a>
Alternate and ELP Assessment	Mechelle Ganglfinger <a href="mailto:Mechelle.Ganglfinger@maine.gov">Mechelle.Ganglfinger@maine.gov</a>
Early Learning	Nicole Madore <a href="mailto:Nicole.Madore@maine.gov">Nicole.Madore@maine.gov</a>
ESOL	Jane Armstrong <a href="mailto:Jane.Armstrong@maine.gov">Jane.Armstrong@maine.gov</a>
Multilingual and Bilingual Education	Melanie Junkins <a href="mailto:Melanie.Junkins@maine.gov">Melanie.Junkins@maine.gov</a>
Office of Special Services and Inclusive Education	Leora Byras <a href="mailto:Leora.Byras@maine.gov">Leora.Byras@maine.gov</a>
Title III	Daniel Weeks <a href="mailto:Daniel.Weeks@maine.gov">Daniel.Weeks@maine.gov</a>