

# LEGAL RIGHTS OF MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

BASED ON US DOE DEAR  
COLLEAGUE LETTER



## IDENTIFICATION

MLs who are not yet proficient in English have the right to be identified. See Maine's identification policy.

## SERVICES & STAFFING

MLs have the right to language acquisition services, provided by qualified staff. See Maine's service provision & staffing recommendations.



## EQUITABLE ACCESS

MLs have a right to equitable access to all curricular and extracurricular programs.

## INTEGRATION

MLs have the right to be integrated with their non-ML peers, not segregated except when necessary for learning.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION

MLs with disabilities have a right to be dually identified and provided both kinds of services in a coordinated way.

## MEANINGFUL OPT OUT

With meaningful understanding of their child's rights, parents/guardians of MLs have a right to refuse certain (or all) services. However, schools must still meet students' needs.



## EXIT & MONITORING



MLs have the right to exit English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs once they reach proficiency. After exiting, MLs have the right to be monitored to ensure that they no longer need ESOL support.

## PROGRAM EVALUATION

MLs have a right to programs that are regularly evaluated for their effectiveness and modified for improvement.



## COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

<sup>9)</sup>The families of MLs have the right to meaningful two-way communication with schools in a language they can understand.