

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. 📅 **Pine Project:** In September, every school administrative unit in Maine received the Welcoming Library: Pine Collection. In October 2024 the Maine Department of Education and I'm Your Neighbor Books launched the Pine Professional Development. The Welcoming Library professional learning modules, part of the Pine Project, are designed to support your professional development through the [CASEL framework](#). We encourage you to engage with them sequentially, pausing to reflect and complete the built-in Reflection Opportunities before moving on. These moments of reflection deepen your understanding, encourage meaningful connections to your teaching practice, and help cultivate inclusive, supportive learning environments. **Earn Up to 10 Contact Hours** by engaging with Pine Project modules focused on key social-emotional learning competencies: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making. Every school administrative unit in Maine has received a Pine Library. Educators can watch videos and interact with the content to deepen their understanding and professional growth.
 - a. **How to Earn Contact Hours:**
 - i. Use your Pine Library and download the [Reflective Opportunities Guide](#)
 - ii. [Watch](#) and Engage with each Module
 - iii. After each module, follow the link to the contact hours form.
 - iv. Respond to the form and share your reflections. Each module has a separate form.
 - v. Contact hours will be awarded within two weeks of the form's submission.
2. 📄 **[Identifying & Serving Multilingual Learners with Disabilities Policy and Resource Guide: Revised 2025](#)**
 - a. The Maine DOE ESOL and Special Services and Inclusive Education teams collaborated to develop Maine's first guidance manual on Identifying and Serving Multilingual Learners with Disabilities in 2022. *Revisions were recently made to address inactive hyperlinks and inclusion of current resources.*
 - b. Be sure to review and share the [Companion Resources](#) designed and curated by Teacher Leader Fellow, Melissa Frans, specific to intervention procedures, MTSS, and RtI for multilingual learners, to provide school administrative units (SAUs) with guidance on a multi-step process to



appropriately identify and evaluate students who are multilingual learners with identified disabilities in need of special education services.

3.  **New Resources**


- a. Visit the [Maine DOE website](#) to access slides and recordings from the six-part series, *The Intersection of English Language Acquisition and Individualized Education Programs: Building Linguistically Responsive Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for Multilingual Learners*. Participants range from: 40 School Administrative Units (SAUs), 10 state-wide organizations, including Child Development Services (CDS), and Maine DOE teams.

4.  **Seal of Biliteracy Newsroom and Ask:** Maine DOE is deeply committed to increasing awareness and participation in this valuable program. To that end, we are excited to announce our collaboration with Bowdoin College in their Public Service Intern program this summer to develop outreach materials aimed at better supporting students, families, and school districts. We want to hear from you! Your input is essential in shaping these outreach materials. By filling out this form, you will help us ensure that the resources we create are accessible, effective, and relevant to the communities they serve. We want to ensure that all students, families, and school districts have the tools they need to understand and access the Seal of Biliteracy. To contribute your thoughts and ideas, please fill out the [Seal of Biliteracy: Outreach & Awareness Feedback Form](#). These materials will be designed to help increase awareness and participation, ensuring that the Seal of Biliteracy is accessible to all students across Maine. 

Maine DOE Assessment

 ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS Reports and Data will be posted in WIDA AMS and available to SAUs on **April 30, 2025**. 

The [ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) and [WIDA Alternate ACCESS Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) for the 2024-2025 test year are now available on the WIDA website. Find these documents, along with other resources related to score reporting, on the [ACCESS for ELLs Scores and Reports](#) and the [WIDA Alternate ACCESS Scores and Reports](#) pages on the WIDA website.

 For additional information on how to use these reports, ***please join the Maine DOE team for a virtual professional learning opportunity on May 19 from 3:15-4:30 p.m.***

This session is intended to provide participants with an overview of WIDA's English Language Proficiency reports, interpretation of score reports, and data integration.

[To Register Click Here](#)

Assessment Resources






1. [Maine Comprehensive Assessment System \(MECAS\) | Department of Education](#)
2. [MECAS Guidelines, 2024-2025](#), for additional assessment information.

Maine DOE


Maine DOE Event Calendar for all the latest professional learning offerings.

- **McKinney Vento:** If you are working with students facing housing instability and would like to learn more about the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program, please contact Signe Lynch, Maine DOE's McKinney-Vento Specialist, signe.lynch@maine.gov, or visit the [Maine DOE McKinney-Vento Webpage](#). Every SAU in Maine has a McKinney-Vento liaison tasked with assisting families and youth experiencing homelessness in accessing education and removing barriers for students to fully participate in school and school activities. Liaisons contact information can be found [here](#).
- [The Maine Migrant Education Program](#) provides supplemental educational services such as access to counseling, assistance with parent-school communication, enrichment activities, pre-K enrichment, tutoring, and referrals to basic needs support services. This program is for **all** students (regardless of nationality, language, status) between the ages of 3-20 who have not yet graduated grade 12 and have *moved from one school district to another within the past three years whose families are engaged in **agricultural or fishing work***. This program is staffed with multilingual community liaisons who are skilled in building supportive relationships with students and families. Please reach out to Sol Rheem, Highly Mobile Students Consultant sol.rheem@maine.gov if you are interested in learning more about the program or want to refer a student who is eligible.

Community and Resource Updates


1.  **WIDA:** The 2025 WIDA Annual Conference will take place October 27-30, 2025, in Seattle, Washington under the theme "Igniting Innovation for Multilingual Learners." New, **need-to-know** information is now available on the [WIDA Annual Conference website](#) including a program overview, registration rates (the Teacher Appreciation Week rate is available May 5-11), and details on the curated virtual track option and more.
2.  [WIDA Webinars](#) are available as live virtual sessions and as recordings. April's topic was *Strategies for Supporting Multilingual Newcomers* and May's topic will be *Aligning AI for Multilingual Learners: Integrating the WIDA ELD Standards Framework into Prompts*. All sessions are archived and available to view whenever it works for you and your teams!
3. Need a WIDA Secure Portal account? To access free, asynchronous professional learning and required training for WIDA assessments and screeners? Visit [Maine's WIDA state page](#) to learn how to get an account.
4.  **NAELPA Webinar: Tuesday, April 22** - Q2 Webinar: "How EL Program Leaders can Help Immigrant Students and Families During Uncertain Times" with Laura Gardner. Register at bit.ly/NAELPA25Q2Webinar
5.  A comprehensive list of resources to review and share: [Our Favorite Resources for Supporting Multilingual Learners - Instruction Partners](#)
6.  [CADRE Webinar - Supporting Interpreters at IEP Meetings: Improving Family Participation](#)
Presented by: CADRE (The Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education) May 22, 2025 - 2:30PM - 3:45PM ET. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), parent participation is a right. In the special education process, nurturing collaborative relationships with parents who are English language learners requires intention and practice. Special education meetings

where interpreters are involved provide a critical opportunity for both. In this webinar, presenters from the PACER Center in Minnesota and the Massachusetts Department of Education will discuss their respective interpreter support programs, resources, and training opportunities. [Register Here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zWc2183fTvSljm0YBbbQVw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zWc2183fTvSljm0YBbbQVw)

7.  [Maine Mobile Health Program](#) is thrilled to announce that they have received a grant to expand behavioral health services. Maine Mobile is happy to assist **Spanish-speaking patients seeking support for behavioral health or substance use disorder**. For referrals, please email Laura Valencia-Orozco, Behavioral Health Director, at lvalenciaorozco@mainemobile.org.

Saving this section for YOU!

1. **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. Fill out this form [here](#).

2.  **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
Federal Team (ESEA/ESSA)	Shelly Chasse Johndro Shelly.chassejohndro@maine.gov
Title III	Daniel Weeks Daniel.Weeks@maine.gov



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