



SLIFE Definition

Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Schooling

The Maine Department of Education defines a Student with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE) as a student who meets all the following criteria:

1. Is a multilingual learner;
2. Has an English language proficiency level (as measured by WIDA assessments) of level 2.0 or below for students in grades 2-3 or level 2.5 or below for students in grades 4-12;
3. Is at least eight years old;
4. Has experienced at least one of the following:
 - a. No formal schooling
 - b. Interruptions in formal schooling (defined as two or more re-enrollments or two years or more less schooling than typical peers)
 - c. Consistent but limited formal schooling outside the United States; and/or
 - d. Functions at two or more years below expected grade level in native language literacy and/or math skills relative to typical peers