



AUGUSTA SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

40 Pierce Drive, Suite 3
Augusta, Maine 04330-9105
Phone: 207-626-2468 Fax: 207-626-2444
www.augustaschools.org

Michael Tracy, Jr., CAS
Superintendent

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Christina Wotton, Ed. D.
Assistant Superintendent

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and Members of the 132nd Legislative Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

Karla Miller, M.B.A.
Business Manager

Shelby Thibodeau, M.A.
Director of Special Education

I am writing on behalf of the Augusta School Department to provide information on the English Language Learning services currently offered in our community. I am neither for nor against LD 471, but I want to highlight the work already being done to support adult multilingual learners through Augusta Adult and Community Education.

Board of Education

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Our Adult Education program serves a diverse population of multilingual learners, offering a range of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes tailored to various proficiency levels. Each year, we see a growing number of students seeking these services, with enrollment projected to increase from over 90 learners to 120 in the coming year. In addition to language instruction focused on reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills, we integrate workforce preparation to ensure that students gain the skills necessary for employment and career advancement.

A key strength of our program is accessibility. Augusta Adult and Community Education offers flexible scheduling options, allowing students to balance their education with work and family responsibilities. Additionally, we have built strong partnerships with local employers to bring ESL instruction directly to workplaces. For example, our collaboration with MaineGeneral Health provides employees with on-site language instruction, increasing their ability to succeed in the workforce while learning English.

As Maine continues to welcome an increasing number of multilingual learners, it is important to consider how to best support and expand existing programs that already provide comprehensive English language learning services. Strengthening and ensuring sustainable funding for these established programs would enhance the impact of services already in place and better serve the growing population of adult English language learners.

We welcome the opportunity to continue this important conversation and appreciate your attention to the needs of Maine's multilingual learners. Please feel free to reach out if you would like additional information on the work being done here in Augusta.

Sincerely,

Michael Tracy
Superintendent of Schools
Augusta School Department