



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

May 13, 2020

Alabama
State Board
of Education

MEMORANDUM

Governor Kay Ivey
President

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

Jackie Zeigler
District I
President Pro Tem

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

Tracie West
District II

RE: *Alabama Literacy Act* 2019-523 Reporting Requirements and Updates

Stephanie Bell
District III

Thank you for your dedication and efforts to complete the 2019-2020 school year in alternate delivery methods while remaining flexible through various updates, graduation plans, summer schedules, and other challenges. To facilitate your work, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) remains committed to adjusting timelines and providing ongoing updates to assist in the implementation of the *Alabama Literacy Act*.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

- 2019-2020 Comprehensive Local Education Agency (LEA) Early Literacy Report:** Superintendents received a draft of the reporting requirements in early May. The official reporting portal is now accessible through the Early Literacy Reporting Portal. Each school with Grades K-3 in your LEA **must** have a completed submission that is certified by the superintendent in the portal. **The final report will be due Friday, September 11, 2020**, to allow LEAs time to enter all 2019-2020 data; include any summer reading camp data; and assess and report fall of 2020-2021 early reading assessment data results. Some of the fields may not be applicable for this school year, so NA may be utilized. Upon completion of your LEA report, the data will be compiled for two main purposes. By law, the State Superintendent of Education is required to annually submit a comprehensive report in December to the legislators. The data will also be analyzed by state and regional staff in the Division of Instruction to provide tiered supports from state and regional ARI staff, to identify themes and patterns of reading strengths and deficiencies across the state; and to plan professional development that aligns to needs. If you need assistance with the report, contact Mrs. Reeda Betts at rbetts@alsde.edu.

Tommie T. Stewart, Ph.D.
District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

Jeff Newman
District VII
Vice President

- Early Reading and Math Assessment Selections:** LEAs **now** have until Friday, May 29, 2020, to finalize selections in the portal. Assessment submissions will then be routed to ALSDE accounting to process LEA funding allocations, as well as to vendors. This will allow LEAs to begin working with the vendors to complete purchasing and other logistics to begin administering the K-3 assessments in the fall. If you have questions regarding this process, contact Karen Porter at kporter@alsde.edu.

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

- **2020-2021 LEA Local Reading Specialists:** The FY2021 ETF budget that was passed last week now awaits the Governor's signature. LEA allocations for local reading specialists will be forthcoming, along with detailed expectations aligned to the *Alabama Literacy Act* requirements but also to increased student reading growth through early reading assessment fall, winter, and spring progress monitoring and yearly outcomes. Through collaborative efforts with R7CC Comprehensive Center, the ALSDE is developing a comprehensive Alabama Coaching Framework that is aligned to evidence-based practices and The Theory of Action research and includes roles and responsibilities for regional and local school reading specialists. Expectations for district- and school-level administrators and teachers who will support and be supported by these reading specialists will also be defined. It will be critical that all parties involved understand these roles, responsibilities, and expectations and are committed to adhering to them to ensure the success of our youngest learners.

In preparation for the 2020-2021 school year, please review your local reading specialists' qualifications to ensure they meet the *Alabama Literacy Act* requirements. Additionally, please ensure that both your local reading specialists, their principals, and all district administrators understand that the ALSDE will be implementing additional measures of effectiveness, including both qualitative and quantitative data analyses to track reading specialist activities and effectiveness as it relates to student reading proficiency. The ALSDE is committed to ensuring these positions are implemented in accordance with the expectations and requirements of the *Alabama Literacy Act*. I expect LEAs to maximize their use of these positions to ensure gains in student reading proficiency. If LEAs are unable to meet the requirements and expectations of the legislation, further actions may be taken to assist LEAs to ensure maximum efficiency. Finalized LEA allocations, a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU), and verification form will be sent to LEAs as soon as they are finalized.

- **Summer Reading Camps:** LEAs received the memorandum to register plans and budget projections and completions should be submitted by May 29, 2020, at leasummerreg2020@alsde.edu. You may submit via the PDF document or with the fillable form template found at Summer Program Registration. If you need assistance, please contact Karen Rutledge Bell at krbell@alsde.edu or Wendy Warren at wwarren@alsde.edu.
- **Science of Reading Summer 2020 Professional Learning for Educators:** Educators currently on the *LETRS* wait list will be able to begin this summer through virtual training, and Cohort 3B *LETRS* Kick-Off virtual meetings will be held in June and July. Virtual meetings for Unit 1 of *LETRS* 3rd Edition and Day 1 of *LETRS* for Administrators will be offered in July for those who wish to begin in the summer. If you would like to be included in any of the *LETRS* professional development courses, please complete the [Wait List Registration](#) using the link below. You may contact Gay Finn at gfinn@alsde.edu or AlabamaLETRS@alsde.edu for more information.

LETRS for educators in **Full Support** (FS) schools will begin training this summer with virtual *LETRS* Kick-Off meetings scheduled in June. All educators in FS schools will participate in virtual meetings for Units 1 and 2 of *LETRS* 3rd Edition and Day 1 of *LETRS* for Administrators (administrators only) this summer. All *LETRS* for Early Childhood Educators (PreK-K) will begin in the fall. Please contact Karen Rutledge Bell at krbell@alsde.edu or ALfullsupport@alsde.edu for more information.

ARI Foundations for Beginning Reading: An Introduction to the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy Overview trainings are being offered virtually in each regional inservice center (RIC). Consult your RIC for details or contact Wendy Warren at wwarren@alsde.edu or at arisummerlearning@alsde.edu.

- **The Alabama Literacy Act Implementation Guide:** Phase I of this document remains on target to be published by the end of May.

Thank you for your perseverance during these last few months. While no one could have anticipated COVID-19's impact on our planning efforts, we appreciate your unwavering dedication to your students, educators, parents, and communities. Our team also remains committed in our collective efforts to increase reading achievement for "Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day."

EGM:ED:KWP

cc: Chief School Financial Officers
LEA ARI-Dyslexia Contacts
LEA Special Education Coordinators
Grades K-3 Elementary Principals
Dr. Daniel Boyd
Dr. Elisabeth Davis

Mr. Andy Craig
Dr. Jeffery Langham
Mrs. Karen Porter
Ms. Crystal Richardson
Mrs. Reeda Betts
Mrs. Vickie Chappelle

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