



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



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

June 26, 2020

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

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

**SUBJECT:** *Alabama's Journey to Reading Success: The Alabama Literacy Act Implementation Guide*

Through collaborative efforts with state and national early literacy stakeholders, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is proud to announce the release of *Alabama's Journey to Reading Success: The Alabama Literacy Act Implementation Guide*. This resource is intended to assist local education agencies (LEAs) and schools for the 2020-2021 school year in the continued implementation of the *Alabama Literacy Act*. However, we will continue to update information and provide additional guidance through multiple phases in the coming years.

This resource is the result of collaborative partnerships, and the ALSDE would like to extend sincere thanks to the committees, councils, and other organizations who contributed including the Alabama Committee on Grade-Level Reading, the Alabama Dyslexia Advisory Council (ADAC), the Alabama Literacy Task Force, ExcelinED, the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI), the Region 7 Comprehensive Center (R7CC), and Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Southeast. These partnerships will also be vital as the ALSDE assists LEAs and schools in the implementation of systemic processes outlined in the *Alabama Literacy Act*.

*Alabama's Journey to Reading Success: The Alabama Literacy Act Implementation Guide* is a living document that will drive current and future work of the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) as we strive to ensure that all students are reading at or above grade level by the end of the third grade. Ongoing professional learning based upon this resource will be available to all educators in kindergarten through the third grade beginning in June 2020. In the coming months, state and regional ARI staff will provide additional information and support to assist LEAs and local reading specialists with this resource.

Although our initial goal was to release Phase I of this document in April 2020, we appreciate your patience with the delay due to the COVID-19 national pandemic. For additional information or questions regarding this resource, please contact Mrs. Reeda Betts, ARI Education Administrator, by telephone at (334) 694-4632 or by email at [rbetts@alsde.edu](mailto:rbetts@alsde.edu). Thank you for your continued commitment to Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day.

EGM/RB/KJ

cc: Commissioner Lynn Beshear

Dr. Daniel Boyd  
 Mr. Andy Craig

FY20-2094

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