



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

Alabama
 State Board
 of Education

December 8, 2023

MEMORANDUM

Governor Kay Ivey
 President

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

Jackie Zeigler
 District I

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

Tracie West
 District II
 Vice President

RE: Third Graders and Finding a Path to Promotion for Spring 2024

Stephanie Bell
 District III

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) and the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) are committed to providing systematic support for schools and districts by providing funding for local reading specialists, on-site coaching and support, and professional learning opportunities for local reading specialists, principals, and local education agency (LEA) leaders. With 2023-2024 being the first year that third graders will have demonstrated a path to promotion to avoid retention, the ARI will provide an extra layer of support to local superintendents.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
 District IV

Two WebEx sessions will be offered in both January and May for your participation as the local superintendent of education. These sessions are particularly significant this year, given the elevated importance of achieving successful outcomes for third-grade students. Our professional learning sessions, tailored specifically for local superintendents, will delve into the promotion pathways, and delineate your specific responsibilities in this context. The goal is to have a 100 percent participation rate among Alabama’s superintendents for one of the January sessions. Although the sessions are intended for superintendents, members of your leadership team are welcome to join. The sessions are scheduled as follows:

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
 District V
 President Pro Tem

January Superintendent Sessions (please choose one of the two)

- Wednesday, January 10, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. CST
- Tuesday, January 16, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. CST

Marie Manning
 District VI

Refresher Sessions for Superintendents with Additional Questions Addressed

- Thursday, May 16, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST
- Friday, May 17, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. CST

Belinda McRae
 District VII

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
 District VIII

Please register for this event through the [link](#). We look forward to a successful year as we all work together for “Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day.” If you have questions, please contact your Regional Literacy Leadership Specialist or Mrs. Bonnie Short, ARI Director, by email at bonnie.short@alsde.edu or by telephone at (334) 694-4632.

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

EGM:BS:AM

cc: LEA Chief School Financial Officers
 ARI Central Office Contacts
 Mrs. Angela Martin
 Dr. Brandon T. Payne
 Dr. Melissa Shields
 Mrs. Bonnie Short

FY24-2010