



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

April 3, 2023

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of Education

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MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

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

RE: K-3 English Language Arts (ELA) Textbook Adoption 2023

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) underwent a review of comprehensive core reading programs and supplemental textbooks for K-3 students. At the March 9, 2023, State Board of Education (SBOE) Meeting, the board voted to approve the comprehensive core reading program recommendations set forth in a program review by these groups: (1) Alabama Literacy Task Force (LTF) outlined in the *Alabama Literacy Act* and (2) State Textbook Adoption Committee outlined in the *Alabama Code*, Section 16-36-60.

As a result, two comprehensive core reading programs are adopted at the state level for K-3 comprehensive core reading programs as listed below:

- Amplify’s Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)
- McGraw Hill’s Open Court

If a local district wishes to use state funds to purchase neither of the comprehensive core reading programs recommended by the LTF, the district may utilize the local adoption option. Utilizing a local adoption option requires you to communicate with Dr. Carolyn Jones, State Textbook Administrator, by email at cajones@alsde.edu or by telephone at (334) 694-4768.

Before making any such decision, it is important to review the verbiage in the *Alabama Literacy Act* concerning comprehensive core reading programs. The excerpts on the following page are from last year’s revision to the *Alabama Literacy Act*.

The LTF is charged to “provide recommendations for comprehensive core reading and reading intervention programs, a state continuum of teacher development for approved science of reading pursuant to subsection (e) of Section 16-6G-6, and an annual list of vetted and approved assessments that are valid and reliable reading, screening, formative, and diagnostic assessment systems for selection and use by the local education agencies (LEA).” (Revision Spring 2022)

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“Commencing with the 2022-2023 school year, to ensure that public school students are able to read at or above grade level by the end of third grade, **each LEA shall offer an approved comprehensive core reading program to all students** based on the science of reading, which develops foundational reading skills.” (Revision Spring 2022)

The next steps for district comprehensive core reading program decisions are to engage in the local textbook adoption ([link here](#)). This process allows districts to fully review their options and determine the materials that will best meet the needs of the school(s) and districts.

Thank you for your continued work in supporting all children with these tools that when coupled with informed teachers in the science of reading and quality instruction, result in improved outcomes for children and point to the commitment of “Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day.” If you have any questions, you may 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.

If you have any questions regarding the local adoption of materials that have been neither rejected nor approved by the Alabama State Board of Education, please contact Dr. Carolyn Jones, State Textbook Administrator, by email at cajones@alsde.edu or by telephone at (334) 694-4768.

EGM/BS/SJS

cc: LEA Chief School Financial Officers
LEA ARI Contacts
Mrs. Angela Martin
Dr. Melissa Shields
Mr. Sean J. Stevens
Mrs. Bonnie Short
Dr. Carolyn Jones

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