



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

November 10, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

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

RE: Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) Local Reading Specialist(s) Allocations for Kindergarten through Third Grade Schools

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) and the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) are committed to providing systematic support for ARI local reading specialists, school administrators, classroom teachers, and district leaders as outlined in the [Alabama Literacy Act 2019-523](#), including districts that have a virtual school.

The schools included in the attachment have already completed the [MOU/MOA for a local reading specialist](#) agreeing to implement the ARI Local Reading Specialist job description and designating one individual per school with any combination of kindergarten through third grade to serve in the local reading specialist role. These schools will receive the allocation outlined in the August 1, 2025, memorandum and noted in the attachment on a quarterly basis. These allocations are 100 percent state funds and should be budgeted and expended using revenue and fund source 1230, as indicated in slide 45 of the [2025-2026: Comprehensive Memo Presentation](#). These funds will be included with the monthly foundation disbursements, beginning in November. These funds must be expended by September 30, 2026. If an allocation is not noted for a school or local education agency (LEA), please reach out to the Regional Literacy Leadership Specialist with the completed [MOU/MOA for a local reading specialist](#) to work toward the acquisition of the funds. Any additional allocations will be granted upon completion of this document.

The work of the local reading specialist is key to the success of the *Alabama Literacy Act*. Allocated funds **must** be directed toward local reading specialists in K-3 schools. If your district has not yet completed this process, please complete the MOU/MOA process as stated in the memorandum.

We look forward to a successful year as we all work together for “Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day.” If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Literacy Leadership Specialist or Mrs. Alicia Johnson, ARI Education Specialist, by email at alicia.johnson@alsde.edu or by telephone at (334) 694-4918.

EGM:BS:AM

Attachment

cc: Chief School Financial Officers
ARI Central Office Contacts
Mrs. Angela Martin

Dr. Melissa Shields
Mrs. Bonnie Short

FY26-2010

Alabama
State Board
of Education

Governor Kay Ivey
President

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Tracie West
District II

Kelly Mooney
District III
President Pro Tem

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

Marie Manning
District VI
Vice President

Allen Long, M.D.
District VII

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

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

State of Alabama
Department of Education
FY 2026 Alabama Local Reading Specialist Allocation

<u>Sys Code</u>	<u>System Name</u>	<u>Number of K-3 Schools</u>	<u>Amount Per School Allocated for a Local Reading Specialist</u>	<u>Local Reading Specialist in the district with completed MOA/MOU</u>	<u>Total FY 2025 Local Reading Specialist Allocation</u>
001	Autauga County	7	\$85,000	7	\$595,000
002	Baldwin County	25	\$85,000	25	\$2,125,000
003	Barbour County	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
004	Bibb County	4	\$85,000	4	\$340,000
005	Blount County	8	\$85,000	8	\$680,000
006	Bullock County	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
007	Butler County	4	\$85,000	4	\$340,000
008	Calhoun County	7	\$85,000	7	\$595,000
009	Chambers County	4	\$85,000	4	\$340,000
010	Cherokee County	5	\$85,000	5	\$425,000
011	Chilton County	6	\$85,000	6	\$510,000
012	Choctaw County	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
013	Clarke County	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
014	Clay County	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
015	Cleburne County	4	\$85,000	4	\$340,000
016	Coffee County	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
017	Colbert County	5	\$85,000	5	\$425,000
018	Conecuh County	4	\$85,000	4	\$340,000
019	Coosa County	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
020	Covington County	5	\$85,000	5	\$425,000
021	Crenshaw County	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
022	Cullman County	12	\$85,000	12	\$1,020,000
023	Dale County	4	\$85,000	4	\$340,000
024	*Dallas County	4	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
025	DeKalb County	10	\$85,000	10	\$850,000
026	Elmore County	7	\$85,000	7	\$595,000
027	Escambia County	6	\$85,000	6	\$510,000
028	Etowah County	11	\$85,000	11	\$935,000
029	Fayette County	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
030	Franklin County	6	\$85,000	6	\$510,000
031	Geneva County	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
032	Greene County	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
033	Hale County	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
034	Henry County	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
035	Houston County	5	\$85,000	5	\$425,000

State of Alabama
Department of Education
FY 2026 Alabama Local Reading Specialist Allocation

<u>Sys Code</u>	<u>System Name</u>	<u>Number of K-3 Schools</u>	<u>Amount Per School Allocated for a Local Reading Specialist</u>	<u>Local Reading Specialist in the district with completed MOA/MOU</u>	<u>Total FY 2025 Local Reading Specialist Allocation</u>
036	Jackson County	12	\$85,000	12	\$1,020,000
037	Jefferson County	30	\$85,000	30	\$2,550,000
038	Lamar County	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
039	Lauderdale County	8	\$85,000	8	\$680,000
040	Lawrence County	7	\$85,000	7	\$595,000
041	Lee County	7	\$85,000	7	\$595,000
042	Limestone County	9	\$85,000	9	\$765,000
043	Lowndes County	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
044	Macon County	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
045	Madison County	16	\$85,000	16	\$1,360,000
046	Marengo County	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
047	Marion County	5	\$85,000	5	\$425,000
048	Marshall County	7	\$85,000	7	\$595,000
049	*Mobile County	52	\$85,000	48	\$4,080,000
050	*Monroe County	5	\$85,000	4	\$340,000
051	Montgomery County	30	\$85,000	30	\$2,550,000
052	Morgan County	8	\$85,000	8	\$680,000
053	Perry County	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
054	Pickens County	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
055	Pike County	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
056	Randolph County	4	\$85,000	4	\$340,000
057	Russell County	4	\$85,000	4	\$340,000
058	St Clair County	9	\$85,000	9	\$765,000
059	Shelby County	14	\$85,000	14	\$1,190,000
060	Sumter County	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
061	Talladega County	8	\$85,000	8	\$680,000
062	Tallapoosa County	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
063	Tuscaloosa County	20	\$85,000	20	\$1,700,000
064	*Walker County	8	\$85,000	7	\$595,000
065	Washington County	5	\$85,000	5	\$425,000
066	Wilcox County	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
067	Winston County	4	\$85,000	4	\$340,000
101	Albertville City	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
102	Alexander City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
103	Alabaster City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000

State of Alabama
Department of Education
FY 2026 Alabama Local Reading Specialist Allocation

<u>Sys Code</u>	<u>System Name</u>	<u>Number of K-3 Schools</u>	<u>Amount Per School Allocated for a Local Reading Specialist</u>	<u>Local Reading Specialist in the district with completed MOA/MOU</u>	<u>Total FY 2025 Local Reading Specialist Allocation</u>
104	Andalusia City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
105	Anniston City	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
106	Arab City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
107	Athens City	5	\$85,000	5	\$425,000
109	Attalla City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
110	Auburn City	10	\$85,000	10	\$850,000
113	Bessemer City	5	\$85,000	5	\$425,000
114	*Birmingham City	28	\$85,000	27	\$2,295,000
115	Boaz City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
116	Brewton City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
121	Chickasaw City	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
125	Cullman City	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
126	Daleville City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
127	Decatur City	12	\$85,000	12	\$1,020,000
128	Demopolis City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
130	Dothan City	10	\$85,000	10	\$850,000
131	Elba City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
132	Enterprise City	6	\$85,000	6	\$510,000
133	Eufaula City	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
137	Fairfield City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
141	Florence City	5	\$85,000	5	\$425,000
143	Fort Payne City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
144	Gadsden City	8	\$85,000	8	\$680,000
146	Geneva City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
152	Gulf Shores City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
154	Guntersville City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
155	Haleyville City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
156	Hartselle City	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
157	Homewood City	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
158	Hoover City	11	\$85,000	11	\$935,000
159	Huntsville City	26	\$85,000	26	\$2,210,000
162	Jacksonville City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
163	Jasper City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
165	Lanett City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
167	Leeds City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000

State of Alabama
Department of Education
FY 2026 Alabama Local Reading Specialist Allocation

<u>Sys Code</u>	<u>System Name</u>	<u>Number of K-3 Schools</u>	<u>Amount Per School Allocated for a Local Reading Specialist</u>	<u>Local Reading Specialist in the district with completed MOA/MOU</u>	<u>Total FY 2025 Local Reading Specialist Allocation</u>
168	Linden City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
169	Madison City	7	\$85,000	7	\$595,000
171	Midfield City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
174	Orange Beach City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
175	Mountain Brook City	4	\$85,000	4	\$340,000
176	Muscle Shoals City	4	\$85,000	4	\$340,000
177	Pelham City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
178	Oneonta City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
179	Opelika City	6	\$85,000	6	\$510,000
180	Opp City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
181	Oxford City	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
182	Ozark City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
183	Pell City	4	\$85,000	4	\$340,000
184	Phenix City	7	\$85,000	7	\$595,000
185	Piedmont City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
186	Pike Road City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
187	Saraland City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
188	Roanoke City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
189	Russellville City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
190	Scottsboro City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
191	Selma City	5	\$85,000	5	\$425,000
192	Sheffield City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
193	Sylacauga City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
194	Talladega City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
195	Tallassee City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
196	Satsuma City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
197	Tarrant City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
198	Thomasville City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
199	Troy City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
200	Tuscaloosa City	12	\$85,000	12	\$1,020,000
201	Tuscumbia City	2	\$85,000	2	\$170,000
202	Vestavia Hills City	5	\$85,000	5	\$425,000
204	Winfield City	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
205	Trussville City	3	\$85,000	3	\$255,000
801	University Charter School	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000

**State of Alabama
Department of Education
FY 2026 Alabama Local Reading Specialist Allocation**

<u>Sys Code</u>	<u>System Name</u>	<u>Number of K-3 Schools</u>	<u>Amount Per School Allocated for a Local Reading Specialist</u>	<u>Local Reading Specialist in the district with completed MOA/MOU</u>	<u>Total FY 2025 Local Reading Specialist Allocation</u>
802	LEAD Academy	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
803	Legacy Prep	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
805	i3 Academy	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
807	*LIFE Academy	1	\$85,000	0	\$0
808	Breakthrough Charter School	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
811	Empower Community School	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
809	Ivy Classical Academy	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
815	*Freedom Prep Academy	1	\$85,000	0	\$0
813	Covenant Academy of Mobile	1	\$85,000	1	\$85,000
817	*Independence Prep Academy	1	\$85,000	0	\$0
TOTAL		761		750	\$63,750,000

*The amount this district is receiving is less than \$85,000 per school due to a school(s) having a local reading specialist for less than a full year.