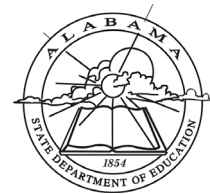




STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

July 8, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

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

RE: Prohibition of Three-Cueing in K-12 Public Schools and Educational Preparation Programs (EPPs)

During the 2026 legislative session, a bill that prohibits the use of three-cueing practices was passed and signed into law which is a companion law to the Alabama State Board of Education (ALSBOE) *Alabama Administrative Code* Rule 290-3-3.61 passed in May 2024.

The [Alabama Senate Bill 168 \(SB168\)](#):

- States all reading instructional materials approved for use in Alabama schools, whether through the textbook law, local textbook review process, or other vetting or selection process, shall use structured literacy strategies for teaching word reading and phonics instruction for decoding and encoding.
- Emphasizes instructional strategies may not employ the three-cueing system model of reading or visual memory as a basis for teaching word reading.
- Explains the instruction MAY include visual information and strategies that improve background and experiential knowledge, add context, and increase oral language and vocabulary to support comprehension, but may NOT be used to teach word reading. This prohibition is specific to the teaching of foundational reading skills and should not impact the teaching of background knowledge and vocabulary as connected to the language comprehension side of Scarborough's Reading Rope.
- Charges the ALSBOE to adopt rules pursuant to this act to establish criteria for any materials used to prepare teacher candidates to teach reading, including course textbooks, for each educator preparation program.
- Requires response to schools/districts not in adherence beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. If the ALSBOE determines that a local board of education or an EPP has violated this law, the ALSBOE shall notify the local board of education or EPP, the Legislature, and the public of that violation.

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

City and County Superintendents of Education
Page 2
July 8, 2026

The “three-cueing system” is any model of teaching students to read based on meaning, structure/syntax, and visual cues (MSV). The three-cueing system within coursework, materials, instructional strategies, etc., is prohibited in Alabama EPPs and in Alabama public schools. Please take time to evaluate all instructional materials and practices to ensure the three-cueing system is not included in any instructional materials or during reading instruction. The ARI team has developed a brief video to support district instructional personnel in their understanding of the three-cueing process. If you have any questions, please contact your ARI Regional Literacy Leadership Specialist.

EGM/BS/AM

cc:	Curriculum and Instruction Coordinators	Dr. Melissa Shields
	ARI LEA Contacts	Mrs. Shavon Harris
	Alabama Literacy Task Force	Mr. Sean Stevens
	Deans of Alabama Educational Prep. Programs	Mrs. Bonnie Short
	Mrs. Angela Martin	Mrs. Kristie Shankles
	Mrs. Shanthia Washington	

FY26-2069