



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



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

October 19, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

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

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

**RE:** Implementation Monitoring of the *Alabama Literacy Act* (ALA) 2019-523 and Subsequent Funding for Local Reading Specialists

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) has provided several documents outlining the expectations for monitoring the implementation of the ALA. The memorandum dated July 27, 2020, outlined guidance and regulations for the expenditure of Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 state funds allocated for local reading specialists (LRS) to include adhering to the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) LRS minimum qualifications, duties, and responsibilities as specified in the LRS job description. The job description must be signed by each school's LRS, along with the local education agency (LEA) chief school financial officer and superintendent denoting adherence to the job description and that oversight will be in place to monitor compliance with the responsibilities required by the ALA. The 2020-2021 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by the superintendent and LEA ARI contact signifies that both parties understand and agree with the practices and outcomes detailed in the agreement. It also signifies that LEAs and/or schools understand that not adhering to the requirements of the ALA are at risk of losing state funding. If these roles and responsibilities are not followed and monitored, the LEA and/or school could receive a warning, probation, suspension, and/or immediate defunding of the ARI LRS state allocation. A corrective implementation plan could be required and monitored by the ARI staff. If non-compliance continues, the ALSDE may suspend or withhold future funding. Payment to the LEA for the ARI LRS will be disbursed once the school and/or LEA provides evidence that the job description and MOA are being implemented.

For the FY 2021 school year, LEAs will receive ARI LRS allocations quarterly instead of monthly. The ARI has developed a quarterly implementation checklist to assist LEAs in monitoring adherence to the ALA. The *FY21 Quarter 1 ALA Implementation Monitoring Checklist* [can be found here](#) and **must be submitted by December 11, 2020**, with supporting documentation. Additional information will be forthcoming by the state and regional ARI staff. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Tracie Strichik at [tracye.strichik@alsde.edu](mailto:tracye.strichik@alsde.edu) or at 334-694-4632.

EGM/TS/KJ

cc: Chief School Financial Officers      LEA ARI Contacts      Dr. Daniel Boyd  
 Mr. Andy Craig      Dr. Elisabeth Davis      Dr. Tracie Strichik  
 Mrs. Reeda Betts      Mrs. Lynn Shows      Mr. Barry Kachelhofer

**FY21-2005**

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