September 4, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey
State Superintendent of Education

RE: State Support for English Learners

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) continues to evaluate departmental structures developed to assist districts and schools in meeting the needs of all learners. As part of our on-going self-assessment, we looked specifically at department assistance for English Learners (ELs). With the goal of providing systemic supports and resources for program administration, a restructure of duties was necessary. During our evaluation of current structures, we considered the variety of services needed to support local education agencies (LEAs). The ALSDE determined that changes in state support and coordination of efforts for instruction, assessment, and policy could benefit all educators who are responsible for and interact with ELs and their families.

We worked collaboratively to identify the teams best equipped to provide supports and resources to you and asked them to work collaboratively to coordinate assistance to your district and focus resources in their individual areas of expertise to better serve students, teachers, and administrators. We are confident that this change will better meet your needs and the needs of ELs. The majority of EL support from the ALSDE will come to you through these sections: Student Assessment, Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI), and Federal Programs.

The descriptions below briefly outline EL responsibilities of these sections:

• **Assessment:** This section will continue to provide training to teachers in utilizing assessment tools like ACCESS for ELLs as it pertains to the identification, placement, and assessment of ELs.

• **ARI:** (New) – This section will now assist district and school personnel by partnering ARI and EL regional staff to work collaboratively to provide instructional support and professional learning in the science of reading, language acquisition instruction, elements and principles of structured literacy instruction, and closing subgroup achievement gaps across content areas.

• **Federal Programs:** This section will continue to provide guidelines and policies on federal and state regulations as it pertains to policy, monitoring, use of funds, and compliance.
Going forward, assistance relating to policy, assessment, or instruction will be provided by the individuals listed below:

- Federal Programs, Mrs. Angela Martin, amartin@alsde.edu or call 334-694-4516.
- Student Assessment, Mrs. Maggie Hicks, mhicks@alsde.edu or call 334-694-4825.
- Alabama Reading Initiative, Mrs. Karen Porter, englishlearner@alsde.edu or call 334-694-4632.

We hope these organizational changes will improve our support and service for all stakeholders and we thank you for the opportunity to assist you in meeting the needs of all the students coming through the school-house doors.

EGM:ED:KP

cr: City and County Federal Programs Directors
City and County EL Coordinators
City and County Assessment Coordinators
Dr. Daniel Boyd
Mr. Andy Craig
Dr. Elisabeth Davis
Dr. Tony Thacker
Mrs. Maggie Hicks
Mrs. Angela Martin
Mrs. Karen Porter

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