



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

January 5, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

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

RE: *Alabama Literacy Act* High-Quality Instructional Materials (Intervention, Early Years [EY] Assessments, and Comprehensive Core Reading Programs)

The *Alabama Literacy Act* charges the Alabama Literacy Task Force (LTF) with vetting high-quality instructional materials that provide students the best opportunity for successful outcomes when paired with well-trained teachers and supportive school leadership. This memo outlines changes to these recommended materials, which should be noted in your planning for the 2023-2024 school year.

Intervention Programs: The *Alabama Literacy Act* states that each student in Grades K-3 who exhibits a reading deficiency, or the characteristics of dyslexia, based on the results of the early reading assessment shall be provided an appropriate reading intervention program to address his or her specific deficiencies. This law specifically outlines that the reading intervention program shall do all the following:

1. Provide explicit, direct instruction that is systematic, sequential, and cumulative in language development, phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension as applicable.
2. Provide daily targeted small-group reading interventions based on student needs in phonological awareness, phonics including decoding and encoding, sight words, vocabulary, or comprehension.
3. Be implemented during regular school hours.

After their fall 2022 review process, the LTF recommends the following programs for Grades K-3 reading intervention and/or dyslexia-specific intervention for providing direct, explicit, teacher-led instruction that is grounded in research of the science of reading.

DYSLEXIA-SPECIFIC INTERVENTION PROGRAMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take Flight (Scottish Rite for Children) • SPIRE (School Specialty) • Neuhaus • Project Read (Language Circle Enterprises) • Phonics First (Brainspring)

We understand that some districts will choose to purchase new intervention programs. *If funding is not available in your district to accomplish this task, please fill out the designated form to be considered for a grant for the purchase of a new intervention program.* [LINK: Request Consideration for Funding K-3 LTF Materials.](#)

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Early Years Assessments: The EY assessment systems are to be used by teachers for reading (and math) monitoring of progress including annual screening and reporting requirements of the *Alabama Literacy Act*, (Section 16-6G-1, et. seq., Ala. Code 1975). The LTF made its annual recommendation of the EY reading assessments for the 2023-2024 school year on June 1, 2022. Their review of additional vendor materials in December 2022 reveals that no additional vendors will be added to the 2023-2024 school year list, so the list remains the same from the memo dated June 1, 2022.

ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aimsweb+ (Pearson)• mCLASS (Amplify) <p><i>No additional assessments will be added for the 2023-2024 school year.</i></p>

We understand the recommendations in the EY assessment systems may result in changes to your assessment programs. ***If funding is not available in your district for the training required to implement Grades K-3 changes, please fill out the link to be considered for a grant to purchase EY assessment training. [LINK: Request Consideration for Funding K-3 LTF Materials](#).*** Funding for the assessment systems is provided each year; therefore, no additional funds outside of the yearly funding will be provided for this change.

Comprehensive Core Reading Programs: The *Alabama Literacy Act* states that each local education agency (LEA) shall offer a comprehensive core reading program to all students based on the science of reading, which develops foundational reading skills. In addition, LEAs may not use any curriculum for public K-3 students that do not have instructional time included. Multiple K-3 Comprehensive Core Reading Programs were submitted for review by the LTF consideration as part of a Request for Information (RFI) process. After thorough review of the K-3 Comprehensive Core Reading Programs on July 21, 2021, the LTF recommended two K-3 Comprehensive Core Reading Programs. An additional review process is currently underway by the Alabama State Textbook Committee and the LTF to determine if any additional recommendations for K-3 adoption will be presented to the Alabama State Board of Education and if additional programs will be added to the LTF list of vetted comprehensive core reading programs.

CORE READING PROGRAMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core Knowledge language Arts (Amplify)• Open Court (McGraw-Hill) <p><i>Additional textbook reviews are currently in process by the Alabama State Textbook Committee and Alabama Literacy Task Force. Outcomes of the review are expected March of 2023.</i></p>

Please note these recommendations as you plan for the 2023-2024 school year. If you need further assistance from the ALSDE with LTF recommendations, please contact Mrs. Bonnie Short, Alabama Reading Initiative, by telephone at (334) 694-4632 or by email at bonnie.short@alsde.edu.

EGM/BS/SR

cc: Alabama Literacy Task Force
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