



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

January 5, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

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

RE: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS®) Stipend for Mastery

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will provide a one-time stipend of \$1,000 to eligible candidates who have completed the LETRS® or LETRS® for Early Childhood Education (LETRS® ECE) course **and** demonstrated mastery level on the Learning Platform coursework as evidenced by a score of 80% or greater on the posttest(s) for their course. The Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) team has developed an [informational flyer](#) (attached) that can be sent to your employees to notify them of this opportunity. Each eligible candidate must submit his or her application by Friday, February 9, 2024, using the link [LETRS-Stipend for Mastery, Fall 2023](#). The following criteria are used to determine candidate eligibility for the current stipend opportunity.

- Completed the LETRS® (Units 1-8) or LETRS® ECE (Units 1-4) course. Course completion includes online coursework, offline coursework, bridge-to-practice activities, and live face-to-face/virtual trainings.
 - Cohorts 1-4 of LETRS® participants are eligible to receive the stipend. Participants in Cohort 7 are not eligible to receive the stipend at this time, as they have not yet had the opportunity to attend all eight (8) face-to-face/live-virtual sessions in the intended manner of one unit per quarter.
 - Cohorts 1-5 of LETRS® ECE participants are eligible to receive the stipend. Participants in Cohort 7 are not eligible at this time, as they have not yet had the opportunity to attend both face-to-face/live-virtual sessions in the intended manner of one unit per quarter.
- Scored at **mastery level** on the learning platform coursework as evidenced by a score of 80% or greater on the **posttest(s)** for the course.
 - LETRS® Units 1-4 Posttest and Units 5-8 Posttest.
 - or**
 - LETRS® ECE: Units 1-4 Posttest.
 - Participants wishing to retake a posttest will need to use the link [Fall posttest reset survey 2023](#) to request a posttest retake. The ALSDE will not be responsible for any fees associated with retakes of posttest(s). The deadline to submit the test retake form is Friday, February 2, 2024.
- Properly certified by the state of Alabama. This includes emergency-certified teachers.

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- Employed (full-time, part-time, or contracted) educators of an Alabama public PreK-12 school, the ALSDE, or Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) including, but not limited to, PreK-12 teachers, building administrators, central office administrators or support, professors, assistant professors, paraprofessionals, instructional assistants, local reading specialists, regional literacy specialists, and ALSDE employees. Only PreK teachers who are **not** eligible for the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Educators (ADECE) stipend will be eligible for the one-time stipend provided by the ALSDE.

No stipend is available for the LETRS® for Administrators course, as there is no pre/post-assessment. However, administrators who have achieved mastery status in LETRS® or LETRS® ECE are eligible for the stipend.

Although educators will receive a \$1,000 stipend, the local education agency (LEA), ALSDE, or IHE will receive \$1,200 from ALSDE. The extra \$200 will help to assist in covering the employer benefit costs associated with the stipend. Please be aware that the stipend is considered income and, subsequently, is taxed as income. This \$1,000 stipend is not guaranteed from year-to-year and is being provided based on the state's *American Rescue Plan Act* (ARPA) (ESSER III) federal appropriation for this current FY 2024. These reimbursable funds to the district use the reference **LEA Code 4308-ESSER III, LETRS**. Upon completion of candidate notification and verification, the LEA will request reimbursement for all eligible candidates. Any remaining portion of the allocation after the stipend and benefit expenses are paid, should be used for high-quality instructional materials for that teacher's classroom. **Please be aware that there is extensive application verification, in addition to the time needed to process funds at the ALSDE and LEA levels.** We thank you in advance for your patience.

Thank you for your continued professional growth in the science of reading and your continued dedication to "Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day." If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Suzanne Landry, ARI Education Specialist, by email at suzanne.landry@alsde.edu or by telephone at 334-694-4632.

EGM/BS/AM

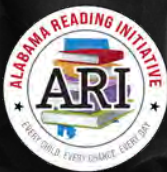
Attachment

cc: LEA Chief of School Financial Officers
LEA ARI Contacts
Mrs. Angela Martim
Dr. Melissa Sheilds
Mrs. Bonnie Short
Mrs. Suzanne Landry

FY24-2014

LETRS® Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling Stipend for Mastery

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will provide a one time stipend of \$1,000 to eligible candidates who have the LETRS® or LETRS® for Early Childhood Educators (LETRS® ECE) course and demonstrated mastery level on the [LETRS Learning Platform](#) coursework as evidenced by a score of 80% or greater on the posttest(s) for their course. Each eligible candidate must submit his or her application by Friday, February 9, 2024.



Eligibility Requirements

What



- * Completed LETRS® (Units 1-8) or LETRS® ECE (Units 1-4). Course completion includes online coursework, offline coursework, Bridge-to-Practice activities, and face-to-face/live-virtual training. * Scored at mastery level on the [LETRS Platform](#) coursework as evidenced by a score of 80% or greater on the posttest(s) for the course.
 - o LETRS® Units 1-4 Posttest AND LETRS® Units 5-8 Posttest.
 - OR
 - o LETRS® ECE: Units 1-4 Posttest * For applicants needing a retest, complete the [Test Retake Form](#). The deadline to submit the posttest retake form is Friday, February 2, 2024.

Who



- * Properly certified by the state of Alabama. This includes emergency certified teachers. * Employed (fulltime, parttime, or contracted) educators of an Alabama public PreK-12 school, public independent school, or Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) including but not limited to, PreK-12 teachers, building administrators, central office administrators or support, professors, assistant professors, paraprofessionals, instructional assistants, local reading specialist, regional literacy specialists, and ALSDE employees. Only PreK teachers who are not eligible for the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Educators (ADECE) stipend, will be eligible for the one-time stipend provided by the ALSDE.

Application Link



Thank you for your continued professional growth in the science of reading and your continued dedication to "Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day." If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Landry, ARI Education Specialist, by email at suzanne.landry@alsde.edu or by telephone at 334-694-4632.

