



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION




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

April 16, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

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

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

**RE:** Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) Regional Support

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information concerning regional ARI support to local reading specialists and district leaders striving to meet the literacy goals for students in Grades K-3. All state and regional support will be directed toward the goal of improving the reading proficiency of every student so that all are able to read at or above grade-level by the end of third grade.

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) and the ARI are committed to strengthening the essential knowledge, skills, and practice of all Grades K-3 teachers in implementing the science of reading by providing highly qualified literacy support to your district and schools. To this end, the ARI, under my direction, will interview for approximately 72 regional literacy positions. Because of COVID-19, we have amended our original plans to begin interviewing in March. When we resume this process, we will have a team of ALSDE ARI staff and regional stakeholders working collaboratively in each region to select the most qualified persons to fill these positions. The goal is to have these decisions made and communicated to you as soon as possible in order that you may proceed in filling the positions of staff who will be on loan to the ALSDE beginning July 1, 2020.

The level of support your district will receive will be specific to your Grades K-3 school data. The three levels of support to districts and schools from the ARI are defined in the *Alabama Literacy Act* (2019-523) and are described below:

- Full Support (FS) – I will communicate with you individually if you have any schools receiving full support. In elementary schools identified with greatest need, regional literacy specialists will develop targeted daily coaching support, organize and provide ongoing professional learning in the science of reading for teachers, monitor reading progress of students in Grades K-3, analyze students’ reading data, make instructional adjustments and recommendations, and monitor interventions that will impact reading achievement for all students.
- Limited Support One (LS1) – In these elementary schools, regional literacy specialists will provide monthly onsite coaching support, monitor reading progress a minimum of three times per year, adjust instruction according to student-specific needs, and provide ongoing professional learning for local reading specialists and teachers.

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- Limited Support Two (LS2) – In these elementary schools, regional literacy specialists will provide **quarterly** onsite coaching support, monitor reading progress a minimum of three times per year, adjust instruction according to student-specific needs, and provide ongoing professional learning for local reading specialists and teachers.

If you have questions regarding your ARI support, please contact Mrs. Karen Porter, ARI Coordinator, by email at [ari@alsde.edu](mailto:ari@alsde.edu) or by calling the ARI Section at 334-694-4632.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring that we give *Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day!*

EGM:KWP:KJ

Attachment

cc: ARI Central Office Contacts  
K-3 Elementary Principals  
Dr. Daniel Boyd  
Dr. Elisabeth Davis  
Mrs. Karen W. Porter

FY20-2059