



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

April 20, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

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

RE: Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 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 Educators (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. The following criteria is 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 face-to-face/live-virtual training.
 - Cohorts 1-4 of LETRS® participants are eligible to receive the stipend. Participants in Cohorts 5 and 6 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 6 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 contact Lexia Learning at [Lexia Customer Support \(lexialearning.com\)](https://www.lexialearning.com). The ALSDE will not be responsible for any fees associated with retakes of posttest(s).

Alabama State Board of Education

Governor Kay Ivey
President

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Tracie West
District II

Stephanie Bell
District III

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
Vice President

Tonya S. Chasinoli, Ed.D.
District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

Belinda McRae
District VII

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII
President Pro Tem

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

- Properly certified by the state of Alabama. This includes emergency certified teachers.
- 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 the ALSDE. The extra \$200 will cover 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 *Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II* (ESSER II) federal appropriation for this current FY 2022. These reimbursable funds to the district use the reference **LEA Code 4303-ESSER II, LETRS**. Upon completion of candidate notification and verification, 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. Libby Frankel Balazik, ARI Education Specialist, by email at libby.balazik@alsde.edu or by telephone at 334-694-4639.

EGM/BS/KJ

Attachment

cc: LEA Chief School Financial Officers
LEA ARI Contacts
Mrs. Angela Martin
Dr. Elisabeth Davis
Mrs. Bonnie Short
Mrs. Libby Frankel Balazik

FY22-2041

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

The Alabama State Department of Education will provide a one-time stipend of \$1,000 to eligible candidates who have completed the LETRS® or LETRS® for Early Childhood Educators (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. Each eligible candidates must submit his or her application by **Friday, May 27, 2022**, using the link: <https://forms.office.com/r/x0fcDf1nbV>.

Eligibility

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 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 LETRS® Units 5-8 Posttest
 - OR**
 - LETRS® ECE: Units 1-4 Posttest

Those participants wishing to retake a posttest to meet the stipend parameters for mastery level will need to contact Lexia Learning. Contact Lexia Customer Support (lexialearning.com) The ALSDE will not be responsible for any fees associated with retakes of posttest(s).

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, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), 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 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.



SCAN the QR Code for a link to the application.

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. Libby Frankel Balazik, ARI Education Specialist, by email at libby.balazik@alsde.edu.
