



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

July 5, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

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

RE: Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Summer 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 LETRS Learning Platform coursework as evidenced by a score of 80% or greater on the posttest(s) for their course on or before the stipend deadline of August 18, 2023. The Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) has developed a [LETRS 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, August 25, 2023, using the link at [LETRS Stipend for Mastery, Summer 2023](#). Future stipend opportunities will be provided pending funding availability. Notification of ongoing stipends for mastery will be sent to curriculum directors and will be announced at ARI Strong Leader, Strong Reader sessions and ARI Coaching communities. 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 trainings.
- Scored at **mastery level** on the LETRS Learning Platform coursework as evidenced by a score of 80% or greater on the **posttest(s)** for the course.
 - LETRS® Units 1-4, Volume 1 **Posttest** and Units 5-8, Volume 2 **Posttest**
 - or**
 - LETRS® ECE: Units 1-4 **Posttest**
 - The deadline to submit the Test Retake Form is Friday, August 18, 2023. Candidates are allowed one retake per volume posttest. A candidate requiring a retake after the stipend deadline will have the opportunity to apply for the next available stipend.
 - If you are requiring an extension of your license in order to complete the course and/or to request a retake, the cost of the license extension will be \$99 beginning July 1, 2023. To initiate this process, email support@lexialearning.com.
- 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 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, and regional literacy specialists. Only PreK teachers who are **not** eligible for the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Educators (DECE) stipend will be eligible for the one-time stipend provided by the ALSDE.

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No stipend is available for the LETRS® with a Principal's Primer 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) or IHEs 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 2023. These funds are reimbursable to the district. Districts must use the reference **LEA Code 4303-ESSER II LETRS** when requesting these funds. 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 an extensive application verification in addition to the time needed to process funds at the ALSDE and LEA levels.**

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/SL

Attachment

cc: Chief School Financial Officers
ARI Contacts
Mrs. Angela Martin
Dr. Melissa Shields
Mrs. Bonnie Short
Mrs. Suzanne Landry

FY23-2059

LETRS® LANGUAGE ESSENTIALS FOR TEACHERS OF READING AND SPELLING STIPEND FOR MASTERY

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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 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

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 a mastery level on the [LETRS Platform](#) coursework as evidenced by a score of 80% or greater on the posttest(s) for the course on or before the stipend deadline.

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 Test Retake Form is Friday, August 18, 2023. A candidate requiring a retake after the stipend deadline will have the opportunity to apply for the next available stipend opportunity.

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, August 25, 2023



LETRS®



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 telephone at 334-694-4632