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SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

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GOVERNOR

May 20, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Superintendents, District and Charter Leaders, Literacy Contacts

**FROM:** Deputy Secretary, Dr. Gwendolyn Perea Warniment, PhD

DS  
A blue ink signature of Gwendolyn Perea Warniment, with the initials "DS" written above it.

**RE: Structured Literacy Updates 22/23**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update and a summary of statutory requirements for the early screening and intervention for students displaying characteristics of dyslexia. The NMPED has developed a comprehensive support structure and guidance for school districts and charter schools as they move forward in implementing the requirements specified in §22-13-32 NMSA 1978.

**State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) Allocation**

The 2022 Legislation provided funding to support the professional development for structured literacy. All LEAs who serve students K-5 will receive a structured literacy intervention SEG allocation for the 22-23 school year (SY). These funds should be designated to support teachers (i.e., substitute coverage, stipends, etc.) as they complete the Structured Literacy and Dyslexia 101 and LETRS professional learning. The estimated SEG allocation for structured literacy can be found [here](#). NMPED is sponsoring the purchase of the training modules and are at no cost to LEAs.

**Screening of First Grade Students**

All first-grade students must be given a dyslexia screener during the first 40 days of instruction in the 2022-2023 SY or within two weeks of enrolling. Screener data is used to identify characteristics and risk factors of reading difficulty. Data will be reported in STARS and all screeners will be provided to districts at no cost. *Screeners should be used only at BOY, and should not be used as a progress monitoring tool.*

Approved English screeners:

- Teach Me to Read (paper/pencil assessment available for download on Canvas)
- Lexercise screener (online)

Approved Spanish screeners, to be used when Spanish is the *language of instruction* for students:

- Indicadores Dinámicos del Éxito en la Lectura (IDEL)
- Istation ISIP assessment

These assessments will guide teachers in data driven instruction and early identification of the characteristics of dyslexia and skills in which students need most support. It is important that screening is not implemented until teachers have received training in the administration of the tool. These training opportunities are included in the 101 courses and are available in Canvas enrollment links are included below. Please note that the dyslexia screener training modules have not changed, and teachers do not need to re-take the 101 course unless they need a refresher.

### **Dyslexia Screener Training**

[Structured Literacy and Dyslexia 101 Course](#) (includes training for Lexercise screener)

[Teach Me to Read Canvas Course](#)

### **Structured Literacy and Dyslexia 101 Course with Biliteracy Guidance**

The Structured Literacy and Dyslexia 101 Course will be updated this summer to include Biliteracy Guidance. The course will close on May 20, 2022 for updates and relaunch in the fall with the new content embedded for new teachers to complete. An additional course will be available for teachers who previously took the Structured Literacy and Dyslexia 101 Course to complete the Biliteracy Guidance portion.

### **LETRS Training for Teachers**

All third-grade teachers, special education teachers, and interventionists supporting third grade must be enrolled in LETRS during the 22-23 SY. LEAs will select between beginning in September 2022 (Phase VII) or January 2023 (Phase VIII). In addition to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers, all of the teachers below must be enrolled:

- Instructional Coaches
- Gifted Teachers
- Teachers new to K, 1, or 2 (including Special Education and Interventionists)

LEAs are also encouraged to add fourth and/or fifth grade teachers as capacity allows in the schools.

### **Enrollment for LETRS Training**

Training for Phase VII will begin in September 2022 and Phase VIII in January 2023. Please use the following link to specify which phase your teachers will participate in. This will also allow you to identify a district/charter facilitator and administrators needing enrollment. Specific names of educators to enroll will be gathered in August.

### [LETRS Anticipated Enrollment for 22-23](#)

Please use this form to indicate the Phase(s) you wish to enroll teachers in, anticipated numbers of educators, and preferred facilitated session time.

**Deadline to submit enrollment information is Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

Teachers who began LETRS in 2021 through 2022 will continue with their cohort.

The table below shows where each Phase is in their training.

<b>Phase I</b>	<b>Phase II</b>	<b>Phase III</b>
Phase I cohorts finished their two-year, Volume 1 & 2 LETRS professional learning in May 2022.	The following Phase II cohorts finished their two-year, Volume 1 & 2 LETRS professional learning in May 2022. (Neruda, Borges, Zafron, Morrison, Lorca, Woolf, Eliot, Angelou, Plath, Rilke, Le Guin, Hughes, Tagore, Brooks, Whitman) The following Phase II cohorts will finish their two-year, Volume 1 & 2 LETRS professional learning in November 2022. (Cervantes, Atwood, Gabriel, Garcia, Marquez, Camus, Keats, Ibsen, Williams, DeVega, London, Hemingway)	Phase III Cohorts have completed Units 1-5 of LETRS. These cohorts will finish Units 6-8 and complete their LETRS professional learning in December 2022.

<b>Phase IV</b>	<b>Phase V</b>	<b>Phase VI</b>
Phase IV Cohorts have completed Units 1-4 (Volume 1) of LETRS. These cohorts will finish Units 5-8 (Volume 2) and finish their LETRS professional learning in May 2023.	Phase V Cohorts have completed Units 1-4 (Volume 1) of LETRS. These cohorts will finish Units 5-8 (Volume 2) and finish their LETRS professional learning in May 2023.	Phase VI Cohorts have completed Units 1-2 of LETRS. These cohorts will complete Units 3-6 during the 22-23 SY and finish their LETRS professional learning in November 2023.

### **Completion of LETRS**

As shared in previous Structured Literacy Memos, educators are required to score at least a 70% on LETRS Volume 1 and Volume 2 posttests to successfully complete the professional learning requirement. NM PED will pay for a retake of one posttest (Volume 1 or Volume 2) for educators who score below a 70%. To request a posttest retake, please complete the [LETRS Posttest Retake Request Form](#).

### **Making Changes in LETRS**

Each LEA received a Google Sheet with current enrollment in LETRS for Phases I through VI. Please review the enrollment and communicate any updates via the LETRS Record P1-6 Form. Please note that LETRS will eventually be required for all K-5 teachers. If a teacher has begun LETRS and moves to a grade that is not yet required, they should continue with their cohort.

### **LETRS Training for Administrators**

Administrators are required to take LETRS for Administrators. This is a 12-hour course, broken up over four 3-hour sessions. New administrators should enroll in a cohort in June, September, or January.

### **LETRS Facilitator**

During the 20-21 SY and 21-22 SY 60 LEAs identified a facilitator to support sustainability within their schools. It is strongly encouraged that we continue this trend with each LEA identifying one facilitator for their district or charter who will be trained on a fast-track schedule. Facilitators will complete the LETRS training Units 1-8 and facilitator training in one year. These facilitators will allow for sustainability and build capacity as they lead cohorts within their LEA. We will be offering facilitator cohorts beginning in September 2022.

### **Reading Endorsement**

The reading endorsement pathway for educators who have completed LETRS 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition was finalized this year into rule. Upon successful completion of the LETRS 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition professional learning educators will be eligible to apply for a reading endorsement. Requirements include:

- At least an 80% on all summative assessments (Unit Tests and Volume Posttests)
- Attendance for at least 40 hours of facilitated sessions
- Completion of online work for at least 40 hours of asynchronous work

Upon completion, educators will receive a Memorandum of Eligibility from the Literacy and Humanities Bureau and will be eligible to apply for their reading endorsement. Educators who completed in 2022 (or before) will receive their Memorandum of Eligibility by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Professional Learning Supports**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
All kindergarten through third grade teachers should complete the 8 hour Structured Literacy and Dyslexia 101 modules in Canvas prior to beginning LETRS. Any teacher who took this course previously does not have to retake it.	Prior to beginning LETRS
All teachers who took Structured Literacy and Dyslexia 101 prior to the 22-23 SY are required to take the Biliteracy Supplemental Course modules in Canvas. Any teacher taking the 22-23 SY Structured Literacy and Dyslexia 101 course will have the Biliteracy modules embedded.	Ongoing
All first-grade students screened for dyslexia	Within first 40 days of instruction or two weeks of enrolling

A student who demonstrates characteristics of dyslexia (following or according to the screener) and is having difficulty reading, writing, spelling, and understanding spoken language or difficulty with expression shall receive appropriate classroom interventions or be referred to a student assistance team.	Ongoing
Schools shall provide timely, appropriate systematic, scientific, evidence-based interventions prescribed by student assistance team with appropriate progress monitoring to determine effectiveness of the intervention.	Ongoing
School districts and charter schools develop/revise a literacy professional development plan that includes a detailed plan for structured literacy training and detailed plan for evidence-based reading interventions.	22-23 SY all K-5 LEAs must submit between August 1 <sup>st</sup> and October 15 <sup>th</sup>
Cohort VII (7) of LETRS begins	September 2022
Cohort VIII (8) of LETRS begins	January 2023

<b>Recommended Resources</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>
Structured Literacy and Dyslexia 101 Supplemental Resources (Canvas)	K-5 <sup>th</sup> grade educators
Effective Structured Literacy Instruction for Adolescent Students (Canvas)	6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade educators
Disciplinary Literacy (Canvas)	6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade educators

cc: Division Director, Curriculum and Instruction, Jacqueline Costales  
 Director, Literacy and Humanities Bureau, Severo Martinez  
 Structured Literacy Program Manager, Sarah Martin