



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Instructional Leaders
Read to Succeed Liaisons
District Personnel Administrators

FROM: Dr. Alisha Green
Director, Office of Early Learning and Literacy

Mary Hipp
Director, Office of Educator Services

DATE: November 13, 2024

RE: Science of Reading Professional Learning Opportunity for Upper Elementary and Middle Level Special Education Teachers

In our commitment to enhancing literacy instruction across South Carolina schools, the South Carolina Department of Education is pleased to offer the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) professional learning program to fourth and fifth-grade teachers, as well as middle-level special education teachers.

Beginning in August 2025, this optional, two-year program provides educators with research-based strategies in the science of reading. Educators who successfully complete both volumes of LETRS will receive a \$500 honorarium for each volume. Lexia Learning will coordinate rostering information with district LETRS liaisons in the spring of 2025.

R2S Literacy Teacher Endorsement and Renewal Credits

Educators completing both volumes with an 80% or higher post-test score can earn the R2S Literacy Teacher endorsement:

- **Volume 1:** Provides 120 renewal credits for R2S Foundations of Reading and Assessment of Reading courses.
- **Volume 2:** Provides 120 renewal credits for Content Area Reading, Writing, and Instructional Practices.

For certificate renewal, credits must be earned within the certificate's five-year validity period. Districts may also grant a temporary renewal exemption for teachers with certificates expiring on June 30, 2025, provided all other requirements are met. Upon completing LETRS, teachers should request the endorsement and upload their completion certificates through My SC Educator Portal.

Through this initiative, SCDE aims to equip upper elementary and middle-level special education teachers with advanced skills to effectively support student literacy development. By enhancing instructional practices, we can make a lasting impact on student literacy outcomes across the state.

For additional questions, please contact Alisha Green at akgreen@ed.sc.gov or Mary Hipp at mhipp@ed.sc.gov. We encourage educators to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to further develop their literacy teaching expertise.