



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
District Instructional Leaders  
Elementary School Principals

**FROM:** Matthew Ferguson, Esq.  
Deputy Superintendent & Chief Academic Officer

**DATE:** December 12, 2023

**RE:** Science of Reading Professional Learning Opportunity

The Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) is dedicated to providing support and professional learning opportunities to aid our elementary schools in better serving all students. Pursuant to [Proviso 1A.73](#), the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) will require professional learning in the science of reading for every educator working with students in kindergarten through grade three certified in early childhood, elementary, and special education. Elementary administrators, reading coaches, and reading interventionists should also be included in the professional learning. This professional learning is aligned with the [2023 South Carolina College-and Career-Ready English Language Arts Standards](#) and will support teachers in implementing the new standards.

This professional learning is entitled Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling, (LETRS). LETRS is an evidence-based literacy professional learning solution that uses scientifically-based pedagogy to provide teachers with deep knowledge and the essential skills to master the fundamentals of literacy instruction to apply and transform student learning. Participation in this professional learning opportunity is a two-year commitment. The elements of the LETRS course of study include the online platform, LETRS print manual, in-person unit training sessions, and Bridge to Practice activities. In-person sessions may be face-to-face or live, virtual sessions.

Each school district shall participate in the implementation of LETRS. The department and school districts shall create an implementation plan to include educator cohorts to begin in the fall and spring of the 2023-24 school year, with a goal of state-wide implementation by fall 2024.

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Pending the successful completion of all LETRS components, participants will receive a \$500 honorarium per course volume, recertification points, and the equivalent of the four courses needed for Read to Succeed (R2S) endorsement as outlined in Act 284.

More information on LETRS in South Carolina can be accessed [at this link](#).

Should you have any questions, please contact Abbey Duggins at [asduggins@ed.sc.gov](mailto:asduggins@ed.sc.gov) or 803-737-3150.