



# Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS)

Legislative Update from MDE Literacy Team  
February 23, 2022



# Ten Minnesota Commitments to Equity

1. Prioritize equity.
2. Start from within.
3. Measure what matters.
4. Monitor implementation of standards.
5. Go local.
6. Follow the money.
7. Start early.
8. Value people.
9. Improve conditions for learning.
10. Give students options.

# LETRS Overview

# Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading & Spelling: LETRS

- Overview of LETRS Training
  - LETRS Units 1-8 includes approximately 144 hours of training.
    - 2 Textbooks
      - Volume 1: Units 1-4
      - Volume 2: Units 5-8
    - Online training modules for each unit
    - Bridges to Practice – application of LETRS training with students
    - 6 hours of live/online sessions after each unit
  - Train-the-Trainer Model: LETRS Facilitators for Volume 1 and Volume 2

# LETRS Grant Registration

- Current funding = \$3 million
- LETRS Registration Opened December 15, 2021
- 2,120 total training slots available.
- **Over 1,000 educators registered within 5 days!**
- Participants will complete LETRS Units 1-8 by June 2023.
- Teachers are registering individually, not as a school or district team.
- MDE will provide guidance to district administration regarding supporting LETRS participants.
- For more information, please refer to webinar and FAQ, posted on LETRS-MN webpage  
<https://www.lexialearning.com/minnesota-letrs>

# Roles of Participants

- Participants
  - Teachers:
    - K-5 classroom teachers (includes EL and immersion)
    - Elementary/Secondary Special Education Teachers with responsibility for reading instruction
    - Elementary/Secondary Reading Specialists & Intervention Teachers
    - Elementary/Secondary Literacy Coaches
  - Administrators
  - Professors at MN Institutes of Higher Education
- Additional Roles
  - RCE advocates, MN Service Co-op staff, MDE literacy staff

# LETRS Grant Registration Update

- Registration Update
  - Registration Completed as of February 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - Confirmed Participants: 1,937 (out of 2,120 total training slots)
    - Participants are now receiving their LETRS textbooks and online access
  - Current Openings
    - 183 remaining slots
    - 20 teachers have registered for remaining slots and now confirming their participation



# LETRS Grant Registration Challenges

- Registration Challenges
  - Approximately 500 additional educators have expressed interest in LETRS and accessed the MDE registration form. Some educators did not complete registration. Others were accepted for training; however, they were unable to accept a training slot at this time.
  - Registration challenges include the following:
    - COVID-19 related professional demands on educator time.
    - COVID-19 illness for educators or family members.
    - LETRS requires significant investment of time, equivalent to graduate level coursework.
    - Lack of a stipend or available substitute teachers for release time. The current model requires teachers to complete LETRS training outside of school hours.
    - Significant interest in LETRS across state. Schools/Districts decided to provide LETRS training.

# Supporting LETRS-Trained Teachers

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- Implementation within Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MnMTSS Framework)
- Instructional Coaching
- Evidence-based Instructional Materials – aligned to the Science of Reading
- Administrators Trained in the Science of Reading

# Thank you!