May 6, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: County and City Superintendents

FROM: Philip C. Cleveland
Interim State Superintendent of Education

RE: Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) Restructuring

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is in the process of restructuring the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) with a renewed and intensified focus on Grades K-5 reading outcomes. While this endeavor is in the preliminary design phase and detailed specifications are tentative, I wanted to make you aware now of upcoming changes related to loaned regional staff and FY17 allocations so that you can be in the best position possible to plan and budget.

As part of this transition, state allocations in the current year (FY16) for ARI regional coaches (loaned regional staff) will end with the expiration and payout of the current contract. In most cases, the ending date for these arrangements is either June 30 or July 31. Make-up and assignment of regional staff for the upcoming year will be developed over the coming weeks.

Third grade school proficiency rates on the 2015 ACT Aspire assessment will serve as the primary basis for determining direct allocations to school systems for FY17. The resulting allocations will fall into two tiers, which combined will equal the system allocation. The Tier I allocation amount for schools with a third grade proficiency rate above the state average will be approximately $18,296. The Tier II allocation amount for schools with a third grade proficiency rate below the state average will be approximately $76,000. In order to participate in Tier II funding, systems will enter into a contract with the ALSDE relating to program design, implementation, performance indicators, and expected outcomes.

Please see the attached preliminary allocation schedule based on the methodology outlined above. At this time, consider the allocation amounts tentative and subject to slight modifications as we work to finalize this restructuring going forward.

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FY16-1008
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