STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Philip C. Cleveland, Ed.D.
Interim State Superintendent
of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

Governor
Robert Bentley
President

Matthew S. Brown, J.D.
District I

Betty Peters
District II

Stephanie Bell
District III

Yvette M.
Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
Vice President

Ella B. Bell
District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

Jeff Newman
District VII

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.
District VIII
President Pro Tem

Philip C. Cleveland, Ed.D.
Interim Secretary and
Executive Officer

September 7, 2016

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: County and City Superintendents of Education

FROM: Philip C. Cleveland PCC
Interim State Superintendent of Education

RE: Dyslexia Awareness, Support, and Resources for 2016-2017

In order to provide you with the most current information, awareness, support, and resources available for dyslexia, the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) has compiled the following information to aid you in communicating with your schools:

- **Multisensory Structured Language Education (MSLE) Intervention** – Our goal for 2016-2017 is to provide the opportunity for each of the 137 local education agencies (LEAs) to have at least one MSLE-trained teacher by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year in the Shelton Academic Language Approach (SALA). Districts with no MSLE-trained teacher will be given first preference. It is our recommendation that if your district does not have a MSLE-trained teacher, please begin early considering the best candidate to commit to this multi-year process. Correspondence to superintendents concerning Cohort 7 is planned for January 2017. You may reference the May 26, 2016, memorandum (FY16-2064) that contains detailed information about the MSLE process. For all questions regarding MSLE, please contact Mrs. Donna Harper at dharper@alsde.edu.
- **LEA Dyslexia Simulation Facilitators** – Beginning in the summer of 2017, all current cohorts of MSLE teachers will have an opportunity to be trained as dyslexia simulation facilitators. The goal is for each LEA to have at least one educator who will provide this training within their LEA. Building capacity at the district level will make it possible for every teacher in the state to participate in this dyslexia awareness opportunity.
- **Dyslexia Simulation Training** – It is our goal that each school will have an opportunity for simulation training. If you have questions regarding simulation training, please send inquiries to Mrs. Donna Harper at dharper@alsde.edu.
- **Electronic Resources for Administrators and Teachers** – The main venue for dyslexia information during the 2016-2017 school year will be Web-based communication. Voice-over Webinars, PowerPoints, and handouts are available for the topics of: Response to Intervention (RtI), dyslexia-specific screening, accommodations, assistive technology, and classroom strategies. These resources are located on the state Web site, www.alsde.edu. Type "dyslexia" in the main search box, select "Dyslexia Webpage," and click the tab – "Dyslexia Resources." If you have difficulty locating these resources, contact Mrs. Donna Harper at dharper@alsde.edu.

- **Professional Learning Units (PLUs)** – There are currently four Alabama Council for Leadership Development (ACLD)-approved PLUs available for educators who hold administrator certification. Please visit the *Chalkable PD-ALSDE PD Site* to learn more and/or to enroll. For questions concerning PLUs, contact Mrs. Reeda Betts at rbetts@alsde.edu.
- **Dyslexia Awareness Month** – October is designated as "Dyslexia Awareness Month" in Alabama by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE). Please join us in promoting awareness and an environment of support and understanding for dyslexia in your district by providing and participating in community- and school-based activities. More information will be communicated to you in September.
- **ALSDE Web site for Dyslexia** – Please visit the ALSDE Web site at www.alsde.edu for frequent updates and to locate resources. These dyslexia resources can be accessed by typing "dyslexia" in the main search box and then selecting the link, "Dyslexia Webpage."

Mrs. Karen W. Porter, ARI Program Coordinator, has identified Mrs. Reeda Betts and Mrs. Donna Harper as the lead contacts for dyslexia and MSLE for ARI. Please feel free to contact them with your questions by calling 334-353-1389 or by e-mailing Mrs. Betts and Mrs. Harper directly.

Please join us as we work to increase academic achievement in Alabama by providing meaningful professional learning to highly skilled educators in order to meet the needs of each child in each classroom.

PCC:KWP:TH

cc: Dyslexia Advisory Council Members
Dr. Mark Kirkemier
Mrs. Shanthia Washington
Mrs. Karen Porter
Mrs. Reeda Betts
Mrs. Donna Harper

FY16-2103