



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF

# Early Childhood Education

Honorable Kay Ivey, Governor

Barbara J. Cooper, Ph.D., Secretary

**Date:** December 17, 2021  
**To:** First Class Pre-K (FCPK) Program Directors  
**From:** Secretary Barbara J. Cooper *Barbara J. Cooper*  
**RE:** Language Essential for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) Stipend for Mastery

The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (ADECE) will provide a one-time stipend of \$1,000 to eligible candidates who have demonstrated a mastery level on the LETRS for Early Childhood Educators posttest. The following criteria will be used to determine eligible candidates:

- Employed FCPK Lead Teacher or Auxiliary Teacher who teaches foundational literacy skills
- Completed the LETRS for Early Childhood Educators online coursework and attended the required Virtual meetings with LETRS national trainers.
- Scored a **mastery level** in the LETRS Learning platform as evidenced by a score of 80% or greater on the LETRS for Early Childhood Educators posttest.

Eligible candidates will upload their Certificate of Mastery found in the LETRS learning platform when submitting their application using the following Foundant link and code:

LETRS Stipend for Mastery Link: <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/fvfBQi>

Although the teacher will receive a \$1,000 stipend, the local education agency or program will receive \$1,200 from the ADECE. The extra \$200 will cover employer benefit costs associated with the stipend. Any remaining portion of the allocation after the stipend and benefit expenses are paid, should be used for high-quality instructional materials for that teacher's classroom.

This \$1,000 stipend is not guaranteed from year-to-year. Our goal is to continue to be able to offer the LETRS Stipend for Mastery dependent on future funding.

Thank you for your commitment to professional growth in the science of reading and your dedication to providing high quality learning environments for Alabama's four-year old children.

If you have any questions please contact Ms. Gay Finn, Assistant Director, Office of School Readiness, by email at [gayp.finn@ece.alabama.gov](mailto:gayp.finn@ece.alabama.gov) or by telephone at 334-467-5823.