



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

Legislative Update from MDE Literacy Team  
February 9, 2022

# 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

- 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](#)

## 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 by January 31<sup>st</sup>
    - Confirmed Participants: 1,715
    - Participants are now receiving their LETRS textbooks and online access
  - Current Registration
    - Participants: TBD
    - 405 remaining slots
    - Registration scheduled to remain open until February 15<sup>th</sup>
    - This deadline allows sufficient time to complete LETRS training before June 2023

# 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 families 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!