



LETRS Training for Alaska

Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling

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Table of Contents:

- [Overview of the LETRS program](#)
- [General Information / Application Process and Commitments](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- **APPLICATION INFORMATION:**
 - All 2024-2025 LETRS cohorts are in-progress, with no additional cohorts slated for this school year. Check back in the spring for upcoming LETRS learning opportunities.
 - Access the [Alaska LETRS APPLICATION FORM here](#).
- **Coming up:**
 - Note that no additional LETRS cohorts are on the docket for the 2024-2025 SY. Please see [DEED's AK Reads Professional Learning page](#) for additional AK Reads Act endorsement training opportunities.
- COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS 3e Training: Cohort 1](#)
- COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS 3e Training: Cohort 2](#)
- COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS for Administrator Training: Cohort 3](#)
- COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS for Early Childhood Training: Cohort 4](#)
- COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS 3e Training: Cohort 5](#)
- COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS 3e Training: Cohort 6](#)
- COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS 3e Training: Cohort 7](#)
- COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS 3e Training: Cohort 8](#)
- COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS for Administrators Training: Cohort 9](#)
- COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS for Early Childhood Training: Cohort 10](#)
- COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS 3e Training: Cohort 11](#)

- COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS 3e Training: Cohort 12](#)
 - COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS 3e Training: Cohort 13](#)
 - COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS for Administrators Training: Cohort 14](#)
 - COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS 3e Training: Cohort 15](#)
 - COMPLETE: [Calendar for LETRS for Administrators Training: Cohort 16](#)
 - COMPLETE: LETRS Local Certified Facilitator Training (V1 + V2)
 - COMPLETE: [Calendar for Cohort 17: LETRS 3e for Classroom Educators](#)
 - COMPLETE: [Calendar for Cohort 18: LETRS 3e for Classroom Educators](#)
 - COMPLETE: [Calendar for Cohort 19: LETRS 3e for Classroom Educators](#)
 - COMPLETE: [Calendar for Cohort 20: LETRS 3e for Classroom Educators](#)
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Overview of the LETRS program

The *LETRS*® (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) Suite is professional learning that provides educators and administrators with deep knowledge to be literacy and language experts in the science of reading. Developed by renowned literacy experts Dr. Louisa Moats, Dr. Carol Tolman, and Dr. Lucy Hart Paulson, it is a flexible literacy professional learning solution for educators and administrators. *LETRS* teaches the skills needed to master the fundamentals of reading instruction – phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and language.

In partnership with Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development, Region 16 Comprehensive Center (R16CC) is recruiting educators from across Alaska for upcoming LETRS training cohorts. Trainings for classroom educators, administrators, and early childhood educators will begin on a staggered basis in June 2022 and run through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Before applying for this [FREE](#) professional learning opportunity, please carefully read the General Information and participant commitment related to Alaska's LETRS training program.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

LETRS 3e for Classroom Educators

[LETRS® for K-5 Teachers:](#) LETRS is a professional learning experience that bridges deep, meaningful research into practical classroom success. LETRS provides educators with the science of reading, depth of knowledge, and tools to teach language and literacy skills to every student.

Unit 1: The Challenge of Learning to Read

Unit 2: The Speech Sounds of English

Unit 3: Teaching Beginning Phonics, Word Recognition, and Spelling

Unit 4: Advanced Decoding, Spelling, and Word Recognition

Unit 5: The Mighty Word: Oral Language and Vocabulary

Unit 6: Digging for Meaning: Understanding Reading Comprehension

Unit 7: Text-Driven Comprehension Instruction

Unit 8: The Reading-Writing Connection

[Estimated Time for Completion: LETRS](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

LETRS for Administrators: Principal's Primer

LETRS® for Administrators is for district and school administrators and their leadership teams. Intended to complement the LETRS professional learning course, the program teaches administrators about the what and why of the science of reading and gives them the knowledge of systems, implementation science, and sustainability that they need to implement a successful literacy initiative. Administrators learn how to assemble and collaborate with their school leadership team, manage goal setting, develop assessment plans, and make effective data-based decisions.

- **Sessions 1 & 2: LETRS overview**
- **Sessions 3 & 4: Principal Primer (leadership aspects, assessment practices, data teams)**

[Estimated Time for Completion: LETRS for Administrators](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

LETRS for Early Childhood Educators

LETRS® For Early Childhood Educators provides deep knowledge of literacy instruction for the youngest learners. The more children know about language and literacy before they begin kindergarten and first grade, the better equipped they are to succeed in reading and beyond.

- **Unit 1: Early Literacy Foundations**
- **Unit 2: Oral Language Connections**
- **Unit 3: Phonological “PH”oundations**

- **Unit 4: Print Knowledge**

[Estimated Time for Completion: LETRS for Early Childhood Educators](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

General Information for LETRS Training Opportunities:

- There is **NO COST** for Alaska educators to participate in any of the LETRS cohort training groups. Training costs are covered by Region 16 Comprehensive Center (R16CC), in support of Alaska DEED's reading initiative endeavors.
 - LETRS training is **not** a "sit and get" professional learning opportunity! Applicants are required to **commit to participating in ALL scheduled live sessions (delivered via Zoom)** for their selected cohort. Sessions are NOT recorded.
 - A **minimum of 80% mastery** on the online learning components is required to successfully pass all LETRS trainings (for K-5 teachers, administrators, and early childhood educators), earn college credit, and to satisfy the requirements of the Alaska Reads Act. Educators participating in the LETRS for Classroom Teachers training may be eligible to advance to district-level Professional Learning Facilitator training opportunities.
 - The LETRS for Classroom Teachers training is far more in-depth and time-intensive than the trainings for Administrators or Early Childhood Educators. The Admin and EC trainings are shorter in duration and do not lead to opportunities for Professional Learning Facilitator certification.
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Application and Commitments for LETRS Training Participants:

- **Selection of LETRS Cohort participants will be prioritized, based on the following:**
 - Completion of the **basic application**
 - Current employment with one of Alaska's 53 public school districts
 - Teaching or administrative role in a district or school serving Grades K-5
 - Pre-K teaching assignment in DEED-recognized preschool or Head Start program (for Early Childhood Cohort)
 - NOTE: Applicants from outside of the target audiences (above) will be invited to participate on a space-available basis. Please complete an application to ensure you are on the list for consideration. (Thanks for understanding!)
- **Attendance:** Attendance is **required** at all scheduled sessions of the cohort group. Sessions will NOT be recorded.

- **Accountability:** Mastery of 80% or higher on all online assessments is required to pass the LETRS training course for both LETRS 3e for Classroom Educators and LETRS for Early Childhood Educators
- **Print Materials:** All LETRS training participants are provided with hard-copy training manuals. **If a participant drops from a cohort for any reason, it is the responsibility of the participant to return the manual(s)** by mail (or hand-deliver) to the Alaska DEED office in Anchorage.
- Optional college credit will be available for LETRS Cohort participants. Successful completion of LETRS for Classroom Teachers is eligible for **12 graduate credits**. Successful completion of LETRS for Early Childhood Educators is eligible for **three graduate credits**. Credit transcription service is available through [American College of Education](#), with cost for optional credit being the responsibility of the participant.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **If I apply, does it automatically mean I have a spot in the training?** We have a limited number of training slots for each training cohort, so (unfortunately) not all applicants will necessarily be selected to participate. We are working hard to ensure access for a large pool of educators (40 per cohort), but please be aware that when all seats in a cohort are filled, we will not be able to add more.
- **Is there a cut-off date for applications? When will I know if I have a spot?** Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The application will remain open so that we can capture information for all interested participants. Should additional cohorts open, those on the waitlist will be notified.
- **I want to participate, but I coach a sport that practices on the same days as the training. Can I still apply and just watch the recorded sessions?** **Attendance is required at ALL live (Zoom) training sessions for each cohort.** Sessions are NOT recorded for later viewing. If you are unable to adjust your calendar to ensure attendance at the live Zoom sessions, please defer your application to a time when your schedule is more flexible on the scheduled training dates. (Thanks for understanding!)
- **Where are the training sessions being held? Are there any in-person requirements?** All “live” sessions with a LETRS trainer/facilitator will be held via Zoom. There are no in-person trainings for the upcoming cohorts. Join from wherever you are!
- **Is the training really and truly free?** Yes. All current LETRS cohorts are funded by the Region 16 Comprehensive Center (R16CC) in support of AK DEED and are available free-of-charge to educators selected for participation. All course materials will also be provided at no cost. Optional college credit *will* incur a fee. More information about credit will be available at the first cohort session.

- **What materials are provided and used for the LETRS trainings?** All materials are provided to cohort members free-of-charge and include both print and online materials, and access to the LETRS Learning Platform.
- **How much time is required to complete the LETRS training?** It depends on the type of training. More information about each training (including the amount of time it takes to complete a typical unit and a list of materials used in the training) is detailed on the LETRS website. **Choose from the following training type to learn more:** [LETRS 3e for Classroom Educators](#) or [LETRS for Early Childhood Educators](#)
- **Is there homework? Are there assignments I must complete between the live sessions?** Yes, there is reading, online work, and “Bridge to Practice” application activities to complete between the live sessions. Time required varies by cohort, as noted in the links above.
- **Can I earn credit for participation in the LETRS training?** Yes, both continuing education units (CEUs) and college credit are available, with **12 credits** available for LETRS for Classroom Teachers, and **3 credits** available for LETRS for Administrators and LETRS for Early Childhood Educators. More information will be available during the first live training session of each cohort group.
- **I am a middle/high school SpEd teacher who would like to participate based on my students’ reading levels. Can I still apply?** Yes! If you teach older students with reading difficulties, you (and your students!) will benefit from the training. Depending on demand, you may be waitlisted – but definitely apply! We are working hard to provide training to as many educators as possible.
- **How can I learn more about the LETRS training opportunities?** Begin by reading through the FAQs in this guide! If you have a question, chances are good that others have asked it, too – which means it might already appear on the FAQ list. [For questions not addressed in this guide, contact the Alaska LETRS Team via the LETRS Question Form.](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)
