

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Topic:** Literacy Update

### Short Summary:

In 2018 LRSD committed to providing teachers in grades K-5 new literacy materials that are rooted in the principals of the Science of Reading which is the foundation of the Reading Initiative for Student Excellence (R.I.S.E) supported by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. Over the summer teachers and principals from across the district have been trained on the use of the new materials as well as the principals of the Science of Reading. Hope Worsham will provide an overview of LRSD's implementation of new literacy curriculum and district literacy plan for moving forward with sound literacy instruction for all students.

### Background:

Literacy instruction has been a focus of much discussion in Arkansas over the past two legislative sessions. Data from local, state and national tests show that students are performing below expectations in reading across the state. LRSD's ACT Aspire and NWEA data show similar information with upwards of 50% of our students scoring below the readiness marks on both exams. In 2018, LRSD recognized the need for the district to provide teachers with common literacy instructional materials that would support the elements found in the Science of Reading. The district, through the recommendations of a literacy task force and with the approval of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, adopted Wit & Wisdom, Foundations, Heggerty, Just Words and Wilson Reading System as the programs to be used in all three tiers of literacy instruction. ACT 1082 of 2018 requires the district to include a literacy plan in its overall district plan of support. This plan must include the prioritization of categorical funds to support literacy instruction.

### Evaluation:

The plan will be evaluated throughout the year through focus walks, instructional facilitator feedback and regular meetings with literacy implementation team.

### Action Steps to be taken:

Implement and monitor LRSD Literacy Plan Goals

1. All teachers and administrators will be trained in the science of reading by the end of the 2020-2021 school year. LRSD RISE Training Monitoring Tool
2. Science of reading strategies will be implemented through the use of district adopted literacy curriculum. [LRSD Literacy Curriculum](#)
3. Establish a system of support for literacy instruction. Student growth in reading will be monitored through required screenings, NWEA, and progress monitoring of students in intervention groups (including students with Special Needs and Dyslexia).
4. Appropriate interventions will be identified, provided, and monitored for students in need of additional support as outlined in the [LRSD Dyslexia Plan](#).

### Key Points:

Literacy materials have been purchased.

District literacy team will provide support across the year to teachers, principals and parent.

### Key Players:

Sherry Chambers, Chandle Carpenter, Darian Smith, Hope Worsham

### Fiscal Impact

Training and materials.

### Critical questions for Board to consider:

Systemic change takes time; how quickly do we expect to see results?

What supports will teachers and principals need to implement curriculum with fidelity?