



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
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ARSENIO ROMERO, PhD  
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

April 02, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Higher Education Leaders, Educational Partners, and Community Organizations

**FROM:** Arsenio Romero, Ph.D, Cabinet Secretary, Public Education Department  
Elizabeth Groginsky, Cabinet Secretary, Early Childhood Education and Care Department  
Stephanie M. Rodriguez, Cabinet Secretary, Higher Education Department

**CC:** Amanda DeBell, Deputy Secretary, Public Education Department  
Mariana Padilla, Children's Cabinet Director, Office of Governor Lujan Grisham

**RE:** Partnering with the New Mexico Literacy Institute's Summer Reading Program

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Beginning this year, the State of New Mexico is establishing the New Mexico Literacy Institute's Summer Reading Program. The Summer Reading Program is a literacy instruction and intervention program that will support 10,000 New Mexico students from incoming kindergarteners through outgoing eighth graders by improving their reading skills. The Summer Reading Program will advance the State's priority to strengthen the teaching of the Science of Reading and structured literacy. Program objectives include:

- Improving literacy outcomes for all participating students.
- Measuring student reading progress during and upon completion of this program.
- Building confidence and competence in literacy skills that will support students' academic achievement, high school graduation, and college and career readiness.

**Program Components and Options**

The State of New Mexico is seeking partnerships with New Mexico educational institutions and community organizations to plan and conduct this program. These partnerships can include Local Education Agencies, charter schools, higher education institutions, early care and education programs, libraries, Tribal communities, municipalities, and counties. Program partners can establish and operate their own program site following the State's guidance, or partners can

collaborate with other educational or community agencies and organizations to cosponsor a program site. The State's structured literacy contractors will oversee curricula, educator training, and instruction.

### **Instructor Application, Professional Development, and Compensation**

Instructors in the New Mexico Literacy Institute's Summer Reading Program do not need to be a current licensed elementary or English Language Arts teacher. Applicants can include anyone interested in supporting the improvement of student literacy outcomes. The State's structured literacy contractors will provide structured literacy training, curricula, and coaching to literacy instructors participating in the Summer Reading Program. Literacy instructors will be compensated at a rate of \$35 per hour and must commit to the completion of the literacy program (four to six weeks during June and July).

### **Interest Form and Contact Information**

If you are interested in participating in the Summer Reading Program, please contact Michelle Korbakes of the New Mexico Public Education Department at [michelle.korbakes@ped.nm.gov](mailto:michelle.korbakes@ped.nm.gov) or (575) 491-5773 by April 09, 2024. For more information, please visit the [New Mexico Literacy Institute's website](#).

We greatly value your expertise on literacy instruction and close connection with students and families. Together, we can implement the first Summer Reading Program that will serve New Mexicans across state.

### **Attachments:**

1. [New Mexico Literacy Institute's Summer Reading Program Guidance](#)
2. [New Mexico Literacy Institute's Summer Reading Organization Application](#)