

**DATE:**

April 19, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM (ACTION ITEM):**

Consider/Approve Compensation of a \$1,000 stipend for staff members who voluntarily apply and are selected for participation in Phase 2 of the Kentucky Department of Education Reading Academy LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) for two years which brings extensive professional learning opportunities. Registration for Phase 2 begins May 1, 2023.

**APPLICABLE BOARD POLICY:**

01.1 Legal Status of the Board

**HISTORY/BACKGROUND:**

As we strive for every student to reach his or her maximum learning potential and be transition ready at every level, we understand the importance of a student's ability to read. Reading is a critical predictor for success in education and in life. Research shows that students who are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to not finish high school. We were proud to have 27 staff members apply and be selected in Phase 1 of the state LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) professional learning. These individuals engage in extensive professional learning beyond the professional development requirements and outside of the school day for a two-year period on topics that are essential for literacy instruction. These sessions take place during the evening hours and/or on weekends. Our district has thoughtfully outlined plans to expand this professional learning to all staff and develop vertically aligned literacy plans including essential skills. We know that if we better equip and empower all of our teachers around literacy instruction then we will better serve our students. The feedback from our staff members who are participating in Phase 1 is overwhelmingly positive sharing that this learning is relevant to their role and responsibilities and is helping them better meet the diverse needs of students.

**FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

ARP (American Rescue Funds)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval to Pay a \$1,000 stipend for staff members who voluntarily apply and are selected for participation in Phase 2 of the Kentucky Department of Education Reading Academy LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) for two years which brings extensive professional learning opportunities. Registration for Phase 2 begins May 1, 2023.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Shawna Harney

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Principal/Administrator

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District Administrator

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Superintendent

