

CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR STUDENTS TO
KEEP WYOMING
STRONG

MEMORANDUM NO. 2020-175



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TO: School District Superintendents
Curriculum Coordinators
Special Education Directors
Principals
Instructional Facilitators
Literacy Specialist
Special Education Teachers
General Education Teachers

FROM: Shelley Hamel, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: November 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Additional COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH COVID-19 FUNDS

To support school districts in responding to COVID-19, the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) will offer district participation in three programs funded with ESSER State Set Aside funds. All three programs have been selected for identifying and responding to learning gaps created by past, present, and potential future learning disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and to mitigate potential lasting effects.

FastBridge™ has been selected to assist in on-going screening, skills analysis, and progress monitoring of reading, mathematics, and behavior. This vendor-hosted, cloud-based subscription service includes assessment administration and scoring, data warehouse, reporting options, and online training. Districts will have the opportunity to contract directly with Illuminate Education for its own instance and ease of access to FastBridge™. Districts can also select personnel to participate in virtual Train-the-Trainer opportunities called FAST Essentials, either as a district or in conjunction with other districts. See additional information about FastBridge™ [here](#).



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Two additional options, Neuhaus Education Center and Teacher Training: LETRS through Voyager Sopris Learning are both focused on professional development for educators in reading instruction. This is in response to concerns expressed over the immediate and lasting effects a deficit in this skill area can have on all aspects of a student's education. The costs for participation in either or both options will be covered by the WDE until the funding is exhausted. Both options offer educators the foundational skills necessary to support students developing reading skills and minimize the learning gaps evident due to COVID-19.

With Neuhaus Education Center, educators can participate in two courses, Reading Readiness and Language Enrichment. Participation includes three virtual coaching sessions per educator. This option is ideal for educators needing a shorter time investment. See additional information about Neuhaus Education Center [here](#).

The Teacher Training: LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) through Voyager Sopris Learning program is spread over two years and is delivered with both on-line instruction and face-to-face training (virtual or in-person). This option can be supported with LETRS Principals Primer/Administrators Training which is a two day in-person training and provides access for a year to administrative online content. See additional information about Voyager Sopris Learning: LETRS [here](#).

To request additional information about FastBridge™, [complete this form](#). To request additional information about educator professional development literacy opportunities, [complete this form](#).

For more information, contact Shelley Hamel, Chief Academic Officer, at 307-777-2058 or shelley.hamel@wyo.gov.