

MEMORANDUM

To: Local Superintendents of Education, Officials of Eligible Non-Public Schools, Deans of Education, and All Other Education Stakeholders

From: Tamika Lipsey, State Director, 
Division of Educator Licensure

Date: February 24, 2026

Subject: Pathways to Proficient Reading Licensure Course Update

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to share important information regarding the *Pathways to Proficient Reading (PPR) Licensure Course*. Candidates seeking initial licensure in Elementary Education (K–3, K–6, or 4–6), including Traditional, Non-traditional, and Supplemental Endorsement pathways, now have two options to meet the reading licensure assessment requirement:

Option 1: Earn a passing score on the Foundations of Reading assessment,

OR

Option 2: First attempt the Foundations of Reading assessment and then successfully complete the Mississippi Pathways to Proficient Reading (PPR) Licensure Course with a minimum score of 80%.

The PPR Licensure course is a comprehensive professional development program grounded in the science of reading. It combines flexible asynchronous coursework with two in-person training sessions led by experienced AIM facilitators. Participants must successfully complete a rigorous assessment covering scientifically research-based reading instruction, intervention strategies, and data-based decision-making principles, as demonstrated through both section scores and a post-knowledge inventory assessment.

This memorandum provides information regarding course timeline, funding, registration procedures, eligibility verification, and contact information.

Course Timeline (Current Cycle)

Registration information for the AIM Institute PPR Licensure Course is accessible at the following web address:

institute.aimpa.org/who-we-serve/state-training-partnerships/mississippi/licensure-course. The registration period is scheduled to open in April 2026. Access to the online course components will begin July 2026 and is anticipated to conclude in December 2026.

Funding Information

All costs associated with the *Mississippi Pathways to Proficient Reading (PPR) Licensure Course* are the responsibility of the individual participant. While the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) may periodically offer a limited number of funded cohorts through the state-supported Pathways to Proficient Reading training program, funding and eligibility are not guaranteed. Participants are responsible for confirming their eligibility and securing all necessary financial arrangements prior to registration.

Information regarding course availability, program details, and registration for the MDE State PPR Training course is available at: institute.aimpa.org/who-we-serve/state-training-partnerships/Mississippi. Please note that the MDE has not allocated funding to cover expenses related to the PPR licensure course.

For district-sponsored cohorts, a minimum of 25 prospective participants is required. In these cases, the sponsoring school district assumes full financial responsibility for all associated costs.

AIM Institute Registration Process for PPR Licensure Course

The AIM Institute manages registration for the PPR Licensure course through its Mississippi-specific registration page. Participants will complete the following steps:

1. Online registration through the AIM Institute's Mississippi landing page
2. Completion of the required attestation acknowledgment during registration
3. Eligibility verification, when applicable (see below)
4. Participants will receive a confirmation email once registration is finalized, including the date course access will open.
5. A course access link will be provided when the online portion becomes available. In-person session dates and locations will be listed within the learning management system.

Eligibility & Two-Step Verification for MDE-Funded Cohorts Only

Participants who are granted the limited opportunity to register for an MDE-sponsored and funded PPR training must complete a two-step verification process:

Step 1 – Preliminary Review (AIM Institute Registration Team)

- The participant must submit a Letter of Confirmation of Employment on official district letterhead verifying current employment as a Teacher of Record in Elementary Education.

Step 2 – Final Approval (MDE)

- The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) will conduct a final eligibility review and issue an approval or disapproval determination.

Important:

The Letter of Confirmation of Employment is required only for cohorts funded by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), unless MDE provides a written notice stating otherwise.

Individuals who have participated in an MDE-sponsored and funded Pathways to Proficient Reading training course within the past five (5) years are not eligible to participate in another MDE-funded cohort during that time. However, they may complete the *PPR Licensure Course* using an alternative funding source, provided all other eligibility requirements are met.

Contact Information

For District Sponsorship Inquiries:

- Email: consulting@aimpa.org

For Questions Regarding AIM PPR Licensure Course Registration and Interest Form:

- Email: clientsupport@aimpa.org

For Licensure-Related Questions:

- Mississippi Department of Education – Office of Educator Licensure

Phone: (601) 359-3453 or

Email: teachersupport@mdek12.org

As always, we appreciate your assistance with disseminating and orally communicating the contents of this memorandum to all prospective and practicing educators. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Educator Licensure team via telephone at (601) 359-3483 or the appropriate Division as noted above. We value and appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

Cc: Dr. Paula Vanderford
Dr. Cory Murphy
Dr. Courtney Van Cleve
Dr. Doborah Stoulig