

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**March 16, 2017**

**OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND READING**

01. Action: Renew contract with Voyager Sopris Learning, Inc. for the operation of the Mississippi K-3 Literacy Professional Development Training System [Goal 1 - MBE Strategic Plan]

Awarded Vendor: Voyager Sopris Learning, Inc.  
Dallas, Texas

Scope of Project: The Literacy-Based Promotion Act was established for students enrolled in Mississippi public schools to achieve grade-level reading by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The Mississippi Department of Education is responsible for providing technical assistance and training for teachers and administrators as may be needed to aid local school districts in administering the provisions of the legislation.

The K-3 literacy training procured for the second year of a five-year contract will build content and pedagogical knowledge of the essential elements of literacy and provide strategies for supporting effective reading instruction.

Renewal of contract for years three through five will be determined annually and shall be contingent upon the successful completion of the preceding year's contract and the availability of funds. Personnel associated with this contract are not former Department employees or related to any Department employees.

Term of Contract Renewal: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018

- Cost of Current Contract: \$1,500,000
- Renewal Increase: \$1,500,000
- Total Cost of Contract Renewal: \$3,000,000
- Method of Award: Request for Proposals

Funding Source: State funds

This item references Goal 1 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**Office of Elementary Education and Reading**  
**Mississippi K-3 Literacy Professional Development Training System Overview**  
**Voyager Sopris Learning, Inc.**

Mississippi teachers and administrators responsible for Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, as well as literacy coaches, higher education faculty, and pre-service teachers can participate in the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training modules focused on improving literacy instruction. The training is conducted in three phases with a blend of online and face-to-face sessions. The composition of each phase and projected participant count are in the charts below.

<b>LETRS Phase 1 Online and Face-to-Face Training</b>	<b>LETRS Phase 2 Online and Face-to-Face Training</b>	<b>LETRS Phase 3 Online Training</b>
<b>Module 1:</b> The challenge to read	<b>Module 4:</b> Vocabulary	15 follow-up sessions
<b>Module 2:</b> Phonetics, phonology, and phoneme awareness	<b>Module 5:</b> Fluency	Review of modules
<b>Module 3:</b> Spelling	<b>Module 6:</b> Comprehension	Teaching Strategies Model lessons
<b>Module 7:</b> Teaching phonics, word study, and alphabetic principle	<b>Module 9:</b> Teaching beginning reading and spelling	Application Activities

<b>Category</b>	<b>Projected Number of Participants 2017-2018</b>	<b>Number of Training Days/Sessions per Participant</b>
<b>LETRS Phase 1-2-3 Training</b>	1,400 participants	<b>Phase 1:</b> 20 hours online / 2 days face-to-face <b>Phase 2:</b> 20 hours online / 2 days face-to-face <b>Phase 3:</b> 16 hours online
<b>LETRS Phase 2-3 Training</b>	400 participants	<b>Phase 2:</b> 20 hours online / 2 days face-to-face <b>Phase 3:</b> 16 hours online