

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**March 21, 2018**

**OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND READING**

F. Renew contract with Voyager Sopris Learning, Inc. for the operation of the Mississippi K-3 Literacy Professional Development Training System

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 3rd 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 third 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 four 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: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

- 2018-2019 Renewal Cost: \$1,250,000
- Method of Award: Request for Proposals

Funding Source: State

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

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

Mississippi teachers and administrators responsible for Kindergarten – 3rd grade students, as well as 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 is in the chart below.

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>Projected Number of Participants 2018-2019</b>	<b>Number of Training Days/Sessions per Participant</b>
<b>LETRS Phase 1-2-3 Training</b>	1,065 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>	395 participants	<b>Phase 2:</b> 20 hours online / 2 days face-to-face <b>Phase 3:</b> 16 hours online

<b>School Year</b>	<b>Actual Contract (Including Modification)</b>
2016-2017 (Original)	\$ 1,500,000
2017-2018 (Modification 1)	\$ 1,500,000
2018-2019 (Modification 2)	\$ 1,250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,250,000</b>