

Memorandum

Date: December 12, 2025
To: PELSB Board Members
From: Lucy Payne, Board Chair
RE: Literacy Update

Background:

In 2022 Minnesota was selected to be part of cohort 2 for the Hunt Institutes Path Forward Program. The mission of the Minnesota team is, “Teaching children to read – collectively engaging in evidence-based tier one instruction that teaches 80% of children to reach reading proficiency.”

The Minnesota Hunt Literacy Path Forward team is comprised of education leaders and experts from all facets of the Minnesota education system:

- Rep. Mary Frances Clardy, Minnesota House of Representative, Teacher, St. Paul School District
- Dr. Lucy Payne, Chair, Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB); Faculty, Teacher Education Department at the University of St. Thomas; past School Board Director, Mahtomedi Public Schools and NE Metro 916 Intermediate District
- Bobbie Burnham, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Teaching and Learning, Minnesota Department of Education
- Julie Novak, Director of Literacy, Minnesota Department of Education
- Dr. Michael Rodriguez, Dean, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota
- Rachel Berger, Founding member and recent Executive Director, Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota
- Amy Walstien, Poul Haas Government Relations
- Abby Loesch, Education and Workforce Policy Director, Minnesota Business Partnership
- Joshua Crosson, Executive Director, EdAllies Minnesota
- Matt Shaver, Senior Policy Director, EdAllies Minnesota
- Amy Oliver, Principal, Monroe Elementary School, Anoka Hennepin School District
- Jane McDonald Black, Executive Director, JAB Foundation

Reading Rubric Development:

MACTE, teacher educators in literacy, and PELSB have been collaborating on a Reading Rubric for continuous improvement. This rubric is designed to complement the literacy work at the program level done with the Literacy Audit. PELSB Staff are working on implementation at the unit level. We have shared the rubric with other states and we know North Dakota is looking at how it could support their work. The collaborative structure of the work will be shared at AACTE in February.

Literacy Lab Site Visit:

On October 21st, representatives from PELSB and MDE traveled to Moorhead, MN to visit elementary schools and see Minnesota State University Moorhead Early Literacy Fellows in action. The Early Literacy Fellows program marries the theory and research taught in teacher prep classrooms with the practicalities of teaching an *actual* child to read. MSUM was the first pilot site for this work. In spring four additional EPPs will be joining the work.

The work being done by the Path Forward team and PELSB staff is in alignment with the READ Act. Finally, our professional organization, NASDTEC, will be highlighting Minnesota's reading work on a podcast in January and a webinar in February

Options:

This is a report. No action is needed.