

Admission to State-Sponsored Alternative Literacy Specialist Endorsement (LSE) Program

At a minimum, applicants for the alternative pathway should meet the following eligibility requirements and admission criteria:

- I. State of Ohio eligibility requirements:
 - Standard license or certificate
 - At least 3 years of successful teaching under a standard teaching certificate, provisional teaching license, or professional teaching license
 - Reading endorsement and/or MA degree in education

Note: Literacy Specialist endorsement candidates must successfully complete the Literacy Educator Training Consortium (LETC) Alternative Reading Endorsement Program and the PRAXIS Test required by the State of Ohio (currently PRAXIS II: Introduction to the Teaching of Reading).

- II. Ability to carry out all activities required in the K-12 field-based practicum and the ongoing internship components of the program. Embedded roles required of the successful applicant include:
 - Providing a progression of field-based professional development experiences
 - Coaching individual teachers on a regular basis during the school day
 - Participating in the planning and implementation of a strategic site-based professional development plan
- III. Identify a home institution within the Literacy Educator Training Consortium and meet its admission criteria for graduate programs in education, based on the institution's policies and procedures.
- IV. Provide documentation of the following:
 - At least 3 years of successful teaching experience
 - Experience in teaching literacy
 - One statement of interest from the applicant indicating an ongoing commitment to Literacy Specialist work
 - One letter of recommendation supporting the applicant's potential for leading professional development
 - One letter of assurance from an immediate supervisor, principal, or superintendent stating that the applicant will have the necessary support to complete the field-based practicum, internship requirements, and required roles outlined in Section II.

Priority Criteria

Due to limitations on enrollment, the following priority criteria will be used for admission of applicants who meet the previously stated eligibility requirements and admission criteria:

1. Applicants from districts and/or schools in greatest academic need and geographically located in regions with greatest need for school-based literacy specialists
2. Applicants who have experience in providing year-long professional development through participation in programs such as Regional Literacy Consultant project, School Literacy Consultant project, Reading First, Literacy Specialist project, Early Language and Literacy Specialist project, etc.
3. Applicants from districts and/or schools that show commitment to sustaining the use of literacy specialists as professional development providers and coaches
4. Quality of required application