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MISSOURI TAPS INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION TO SUPPORT IN-STATE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS (EPPs)

NEWARK, Del. (March 20, 2024) — As part of its multipoint, multiyear plan to support literacy teacher preparation in Missouri, the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is providing widespread access to the International Literacy Association's (ILA) new Literacy Learning Library through a first-of-its-kind licensing agreement.

The Literacy Learning Library professional development product, launched in fall 2023, offers a curated selection of multimedia resources that bridge research to evidence-based instruction. Digital event recordings, video clips, journal articles, magazine features, instructional practices and more are sorted into topic-based modules such as Phonics and Phonological Awareness and Evidence-Based Reading Instruction.

Additionally, the Missouri DESE is granting funds to institutions of higher learning to pursue ILA National Recognition, a seal of approval granted to outstanding licensure, certificate and endorsement programs that prepare literacy professionals.

According to Daryl Fridley, Coordinator of Education Preparation, the 11 programs officially committed to the ILA National Recognition process produce nearly half of all Early Childhood and Elementary Education teacher candidates in the state.

To earn ILA National Recognition, educator preparation programs (EPPs) must demonstrate that their programs meet or exceed ILA's high standards for excellence, outlined in the organization's *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals*. The Missouri DESE purchased 100 copies of the publication and distributed them throughout the state.

The idea of pursuing ILA National Recognition, Fridley said, came directly from EPP program faculty who suggested the process "would provide a framework for self-reflection" and offer "a structured way to identify areas for improvement and areas of strength and [ways] to work on them."

"They're looking for ways to constantly improve," he said. "So for us, it was all about creating access to resources" to help them do just that.

To learn more about the [Literacy Learning Library](#), [ILA National Recognition](#) and the [Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals](#), visit literacyworldwide.org.

About the International Literacy Association

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization of literacy educators, researchers and experts spanning 128 countries. For more than 65 years, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught and evaluated, connecting research and practice to improve the quality of literacy learning across the globe. Through its Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals, ILA provides an evidence-based benchmark for the development and evaluation of literacy professional preparation programs. ILA collaborates with partners across the

world to develop, gather and disseminate high-quality resources, which include three peer-reviewed and edited journals—The Reading Teacher, Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy and Reading Research Quarterly. Learn more at literacyworldwide.org.

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