

Office of Special Education  
June 2026

# **Educators in Residence (EIR) Job Announcement**

**SSIP (State Systemic Improvement Plan) Literacy Coach (4<sup>th</sup>-  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade) Educators in Residence (EIR)**

**Submission Due Date: June 23, 2026, 2:00pm**



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Special Education is seeking competitive Applications from qualified applicants for an Educator in Residence (EIR) position to provide services for the Mississippi Department of Education.

The applicant will provide services as an SSIP (State Systemic Improvement Plan) Literacy Coach (4-8). The SSIP Literacy Coach will provide services for the Mississippi Department of Education to implement and support the Literacy-Based Promotion Act and the Mississippi State Systemic Improvement Plan, (Indicator 17 of SPP/APR).

The Applicant must obtain a fiscal agent from a local school district, a public institution of higher learning, a community college, or a state agency. The fiscal agent will serve as the organizational representative and point of contact for all business management aspects of the grant agreement.

## POSITION AND SALARY OFFERED

**The SSIP Literacy Coach** will work with the Mississippi Department of Education to assist with the implementation and coordination of the *Literacy-Based Promotion Act* and the Mississippi State Systemic Improvement Plan, (Indicator 17 of SPP/APR). Most students with disabilities in grades 4-8 receive reading instruction in the general education classroom, thus making it vital that the special and general education teachers collaborate. Because of this, the solicitation will serve both the general and the special education population. SSIP Literacy Coaches will provide literacy strategies and coaching support to the general and special education teachers. This will ensure the students with disabilities receive reading instruction of the grade level curriculum to meet the standards. Lastly, it will provide the general and special education teachers with the tools needed to engage in and educate all struggling readers. SSIP Literacy Coaches will provide support to assigned schools to ensure that there can be a cohesive, sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused approach to literacy around the five components of reading. SSIP Literacy Coaches will need to develop a non-threatening, professional, and collaborative work relationship with district-level school personnel, school-based and MDE literacy coaches, principals, and teachers. SSIP Literacy Coaches also work with principals to effectively identify the needs of assigned schools to prioritize, schedule, organize, and provide technical assistance so that ALL students in assigned schools achieve grade level reading.

The base salary is \$65,000. Incremental raises may be provided annually, based on performance and funding availability. Experience as an Educator in Residence under the Literacy-Based Promotion Act and State Systemic Improvement Plan will also affect the base salary.

## MINIMAN QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must meet the minimum qualifications below for their applications to advance to the evaluation process and must provide documentation (via resumé) of the following criteria:

- Documented experience in reading/literacy or related field;
- Experience teaching students with disabilities;
- Experience facilitating adult learning and delivering professional development specific to literacy instruction (e.g., professional development feedback / surveys, letters from participants, etc.);
- Experience mentoring, coaching, and providing feedback about instruction to classroom

- teachers;
- Experience leading others in a collaborative process;

The Applicant must also provide sufficient detail to demonstrate experience and knowledge in working with programs similar to the scope of this application. The qualifications below will be weighted and scored by a committee of evaluators selected by the MDE. For each client, please detail in the application, resume, and/or supporting documents the following:

## **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

The following are preferred credentials, but not required of the Applicant:

- Documented teaching experience in teaching 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade reading (e.g., school assessment data, principal reviews, classroom assessment data, etc.); and/or,
- Documented teaching experience with students with disabilities (e.g., inclusion data, principal reviews, etc.); and/or,
- Documented experience designing professional development specific to evidence-based literacy instruction.

## **EDUCATION**

- Master's degree in education with 3 years documented experience teaching reading and working with students with disabilities
- OR-
- Bachelor's Degree with 5 years documented experience teaching reading and working with students with disabilities with a minimum of 3 years of literacy or experience at the State, District, or School Level

## **CERTIFICATION/LICENSES**

- Valid Mississippi Educator Professional License, Special Education Endorsements preferred

## **RESPONSIBILITIES, REPORTS, AND EVALUATION**

- Travel daily
- Follow the SSIP Literacy Coach Work Calendar
- Maintain a cooperative attitude, demonstrate consideration of others, and maintain rapport with others;
- Adhere to SSIP Literacy Coach coaching protocols and procedures outlined in the SSIP Literacy Coach Procedures Manual.
- Submit reports and logs at the request of MDE
- Attend Monthly Statewide SSIP Literacy Coach Meetings
- Submit travel documents at the request of MDE
- Participate in mid-year and end-of-year performance evaluations

## APPLICANT CONDITIONS

- Applicants shall acknowledge that all funds and awards are subject to appropriations by the State/Federal government, and the MDE will not be liable for compensation of any award terminated prior to services beginning.
- Applicant shall maintain confidentiality of all educational records as required under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232(g), and all personnel records and/or other confidential or privileged agency information as required under MDE policies and procedures and applicable State and Federal laws.
- Applicant shall adhere to all Federal and State laws, including, but not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and any other requirements that may affect the performance of the obligations under this agreement.
- Applicant shall adhere to the requirements of The Mississippi Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct as identified by the Mississippi Board of Education in its Rules, Board Policy No. 1717, and the Ethical Policies (Section 11.0) of the MDE Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Applicant shall perform all assigned duties and responsibilities, as required by MDE, to the satisfaction of the MDE.

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Questions concerning this job announcement shall contact: [courtney.sheriff@mdek12.org](mailto:courtney.sheriff@mdek12.org).

## REQUIRED ELEMENTS CHECKLIST

1. [Application Link](#)-- *Required Signature*
2. Resumé
  - Include 3 References
  - Include All Science of Reading Professional Learning and/or Other Relevant Professional Learning Received (Special Education)
3. Valid Mississippi Public Educator License

A signed application packet shall be submitted electronically as a PDF via [courtney.sheriff@mdek12.org](mailto:courtney.sheriff@mdek12.org) here no later than 6/23/2026 **by 2:00 p.m. Central Time (CT)**. The complete application, including all attachments, shall be submitted in a searchable Microsoft Office® format, preferably in Word® or Portable Document Format (PDF) only.

Applicants should allow at least **72 hours** in advance of the due date in the event of unforeseen technical issues. Applications received after the time designated in this application shall be considered late and shall not be considered for an award.

***Please NOTE: The email subject line and electronic document shall identify the name of the application and the name of the applicant submitting the response. Example Format for Subject Line: *SSIP (State Systemic Improvement Plan) Literacy Coach (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) by Jane Doe (DO NOT UNDERSCORE OR INSERT SYMBOLS)****

**OR**

**Mailing instructions** are provided below:

An original signed application packet (1) copy shall be mailed and received in a sealed envelope at the MDE no later than **6/23/2026 by 2:00 PM Central Standard Time (CST)**.

**Please NOTE:** The return address label must be visible on the outside of the sealed shipping envelope and shall include the name of the applicant submitting the response.

**Mail To:**

**Courtney Sheriff**  
**Office of Special Education**  
**The Mississippi Department of Education**  
**Educator in Residence (EIR)**  
**359 North West Street**  
**Jackson, Mississippi 39201**

**Risk of Delivery**

The MDE will not be responsible for delivery delays or lost packets. Timely submission of the application package is the sole responsibility of the Applicant.

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Questions concerning this job announcement shall contact: [courtney.sheriff@mdek12.org](mailto:courtney.sheriff@mdek12.org)

**CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION**

The MDE reserves the right to accept, reject, or negotiate submitted applications based on eligibility. The final decision to award a position grant rests solely with the MDE.

**ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS**

Duplicate submission of an electronic or mailed response will result in the LAST submission being considered a modification to the original submission. The previous submissions will be rejected and not considered for evaluation or award.

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to waive minor irregularities in applications. A minor irregularity is a variation of the application that does not affect the application or the competitiveness, gives one party an advantage or benefit over other parties, or adversely impacts the interest of the MDE.

All applications become the property of the State of Mississippi.

Applicants should ensure that all guidelines and requirements are met before submitting applications. Please note that the MDE staff will not grant Applicants permission to change the criteria established in the application. This includes extending the dates and times by which applications are due.