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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Jacob Oliva

**DATE:** September 3, 2021

**SUBJECT:** New Worlds Reading Initiative Administrator Designation

The 2021 Florida Legislature passed House Bill 3, which was signed into law by Governor DeSantis, thus creating the New Worlds Reading Initiative. A previous memorandum outlining the responsibilities and considerations in the bill can be found at <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9197/dps-2021-87.pdf>. Below is a short overview of the initiative:

The New Worlds Reading Initiative aims to improve literacy skills and instill a love of reading by providing high-quality, free books to Florida public school students in kindergarten through Grade 5 who are reading below grade level. Specifically, the New Worlds Reading Initiative:

- provides high-quality, free books to eligible K-5 students on a monthly basis throughout the school year until the student is promoted to sixth grade or the parent opts out of the program;
- provides training materials, videos and resources to assist families as they engage in reading and improve children's literacy skills;
- provides criteria for districts to determine eligible students, which includes K-5 students with a substantial reading deficiency or who scored below a Level 3 on the preceding year's statewide English Language Arts Assessment; and
- requires the department to designate an administrator to implement the initiative and report results.

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school districts that the **Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Florida** has been designated by the Department as the administrator of the New Worlds Reading Initiative.

The UF Lastinger Center for Learning is an education research and innovation institution with vast experience in early literacy research, parent training and educator professional development grounded in the science of reading.

### **Contact Information:**

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**DPS: 2021-139**

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Please identify a district contact person for implementation of the New Worlds Reading Initiative using this [form](#). Each school district shall coordinate with each charter school it sponsors for purposes of effectively implementing the initiative.

The UF Lastinger Center will email district superintendents and district contacts with additional information regarding the implementation of the New Worlds Reading Initiative within the next week.

For questions or concerns regarding the information provided, please contact Ali Jones, External Affairs Coordinator of the UF Lastinger Center for Learning, at [New.Worlds@coe.ufl.edu](mailto:New.Worlds@coe.ufl.edu).

JO/cm

cc: School District K-12 Reading Contacts