

February 9, 2024

Rep. Heather Edelson
549 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Rep. Edelson:

Thank you for meeting with us and for seeking our input about our priority for supplemental funding for the Read Act. We greatly appreciate your leadership and continued collaboration with our associations.

As you requested, we have conferred with superintendents, school board members, school principals, and other district staff to ascertain their priority for supplemental funding to successfully implement the Read Act. Not surprisingly, the priority varies from district to district. Some districts report that they have successfully trained a large share of their staff but they need to purchase an approved curriculum. Other districts already have an approved curriculum but have just started training their staff. There is broad agreement that funding is needed to compensate staff for taking the training outside of contract hours.

As you know, there are additional costs associated with successful implementation of the Read Act including hiring literacy specialists and purchasing approved screeners. Given the varying needs of school districts, we ask you to consider establishing a funding stream that would provide some flexibility for school districts so they can address their local needs. One idea would be to establish *Read Act Implementation Aid* that school districts, intermediate districts, cooperative districts, and charters could use for staff training stipends, to purchase approved curriculum and screeners, or to hire literacy specialists depending on where the district is in the implementation process.

This approach would recognize that districts have different needs and are in different stages in the implementation process. Providing each district with the flexibility to target the funds where they are needed during the initial stages of this effort will go a long way toward building momentum and ensuring a successful statewide implementation of the Read Act.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact any of us with questions.

Respectfully,

Association of Metropolitan School Districts



MN Association of School Administrators

Administrators of Special Education



MN Association of School Business Officials



MN Association of Secondary School Principals



MN Elementary School Principals Association



MN Rural Education Association



MN School Boards Association



MN Service Cooperatives



Schools for Equity in Education

