

Bonnie L. Short

Director, Alabama Reading Initiative

Alabama State Department of Education

Bonnie L. Short is the **Director of the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI)** at the **Alabama State Department of Education**, where she leads statewide efforts to strengthen early literacy through evidence-based instruction, professional learning, and implementation support for local school systems. Her work includes oversight of literacy initiatives required under the **Alabama Literacy Act** and assisting districts in translating policy into effective classroom practice.

Ms. Short has more than twenty-eight years of experience in public education, serving as an elementary teacher, reading coach, assistant principal, principal, and state-level literacy leader. Prior to her current role, she served as **Principal of West Smiths Station Elementary School** in Lee County, where she led school improvement, instructional programming, and educator development. Earlier leadership roles in Auburn City Schools provided extensive experience in early literacy instruction and school operations.

She also serves as a **team lead for state education agencies and policymakers within the Evidence Advocacy Center**, a national initiative that provides a knowledge-management system and accessible repository of research-based practices and policies connecting states, districts, schools, higher education institutions, and parent advocates to trustworthy, proven resources.

Ms. Short holds degrees from **Auburn University** and the **University of Alabama at Birmingham**, with additional graduate study through **Troy University**. She is certified in **Educational Administration (P-12)**, **Early Childhood Education (P-3)**, and is a **National Board Certified Teacher**.