

Sec. 1. DYSLEXIA AND RELATED DISORDERS

The Board shall ensure that procedures for identifying and providing appropriate instructional services to students for dyslexia and related disorders are implemented by Texas Works. These procedures shall be implemented in accordance with the State Board of Education's *Dyslexia Handbook: Procedures Concerning Dyslexia and Related Disorders (Dyslexia Handbook)*.

Sec. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND TESTING

Screening and further evaluation should be done only by individuals or professionals who are trained in valid, evidence-based assessments and who are trained to appropriately evaluate students for dyslexia and related disorders.

Before an identification or assessment procedure is used selectively with an individual student, Texas Works must notify the student's parent or guardian or another person standing in parental relation to the student.

A process for early identification, intervention, and support for students at risk for dyslexia and related disorders must be available, as outlined in the *Dyslexia Handbook*. The program must include a screening at the end of each school year for all kindergarten and first grade students.

Texas Works may not use early intervention strategies, including multi-tiered systems of support, to delay or deny the provision of a full and individual evaluation to a child suspected of having a specific learning disability, including dyslexia or a related disorder. Texas Works shall provide a copy or link to the electronic version of the *Dyslexia Handbook* to parents of children suspected to have dyslexia or a related disorder.

Sec. 3. TREATMENT

Texas Works shall provide each identified student access at his or her campus to instructional programs and to the services of a teacher trained in dyslexia and related services. Texas Works may, with the approval of each student's parents or guardians, offer additional services at a centralized location, so long as such centralized services do not preclude each student from receiving services at his or her campus.

a) *Reading Program*

Texas Works shall purchase a reading program or develop its own reading program for students with dyslexia and related disorders that is aligned with the descriptors found in the *Dyslexia Handbook*.

Teachers who screen and treat these students must be trained in instructional strategies that utilize individualized, intensive, multi-sensory, phonetic methods and a variety of writing and spelling components described in the *Dyslexia Handbook*. The professional development activities specified by each school and/or campus planning committee shall include these instructional strategies.

b) *Reassessment*

Unless otherwise provided by law, a student determined to have dyslexia during testing or accommodated because of dyslexia may not be retested for dyslexia for the purpose of reassessing the student's need for accommodations until Texas Works reevaluates the information obtained from previous testing of the student.

Sec. 4. PARENTAL NOTIFICATIONS

Texas Works shall inform parents and guardians of students eligible under Section 504 of all services and options available to the student under that law. The notice must be in English, or to the extent practicable, the individual's native language and must include the following:

1. A reasonable description of the evaluation procedure to be used with the individual student;
2. Information related to any instructional intervention or strategy used to assist the student prior to evaluation;
3. An estimated time frame within which the evaluation will be completed; and
4. Specific contact information for the campus point of contact, relevant parent training and information projects, and other appropriate parent resources.

Parents and guardians of students with dyslexia or a related disorder must be informed of all services and options available to the student, including general education interventions under response to intervention and multi-tiered systems of support modules as required by Education Code §26.0081.

Sec. 5. PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Texas Works shall develop and provide a parent education program for parents and guardians of students with dyslexia and related disorders. This program should include:

- Awareness of characteristics of dyslexia and related disorders;
- Information on testing and diagnosis of dyslexia and related disorders;
- Information on effective strategies for teaching dyslexic students and related disorders;
- Awareness of information on modifications, especially modifications allowed on standardized testing; and

TEXAS WORKS

CDN: 061806

POLICY GROUP 6 - SPECIAL EDUCATION

DYSLEXIA

- Contact information for the regional and/or Texas Works dyslexia and related disorders specialists.

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