

Descriptor Term: SCREENING STUDENTS FOR DYSLEXIA

Descriptor Code: IEDA

Rescinds:

Board Approved: 2/1/16

Previously Approved: 4/15/13

It is the policy of the Gulfport School District to comply with all of the requirements set forth in the Dyslexia legislation provided by the MS Code (HB No.1031, 2012). Pursuant to HB 1031, this District shall ensure that the following actions take place:

1. Any child attending school in the Gulfport School District will be screened using District approved diagnostic/screeners for Dyslexia at one (1) of the following times:
 - a) Kindergarteners: spring of the kindergarten year, and
 - b) First graders: fall of the first grade year.
2. The District approved diagnostic/screener shall be composed of the following elements, as set forth in HB 1031:
 - a) Phonological awareness and phonemic awareness;
 - b) Sound symbol recognition;
 - c) Alphabet knowledge;
 - d) Decoding skills;
 - e) Encoding skills; and
 - f) Rapid naming.
3. If the student fails the screener, the parent or legal guardian must be notified of the results of the screener. Parents will have the option to secure, at their own cost, subsequent evaluations administered by licensed professionals including *Psychologists* licensed under Chapter 31, Title 73, MS Code of 1972; *Psychometrists* licensed by the Mississippi Department of Education, or licensed under Chapter 38, Title 73, MS Code of 1972; or *Speech Language Pathologists*, licensed under Chapter 38, Title 73, and MS Code of 1972. Failure of the screener does not equate to a diagnosis of Dyslexia; further assessment would be required by a licensed professional as noted above.
4. If a parent or legal guardian of a student who fails the Dyslexia screener exercises the option to have a subsequent evaluation performed, and such evaluation is administered by one of aforementioned professionals using individually administered standardized assessments, the resulting diagnosis shall be accepted by the school district for purposes of determining eligibility to receive a Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for placement in a dyslexia program in another public school or nonpublic special purpose school.

Legal Reference: MS HB 1031 (2012)