

DYSLEXIA DIGEST

a newsletter on the skill of reading *Parent Edition*



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Volume 1

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GEORGIA SENATE BILL 48

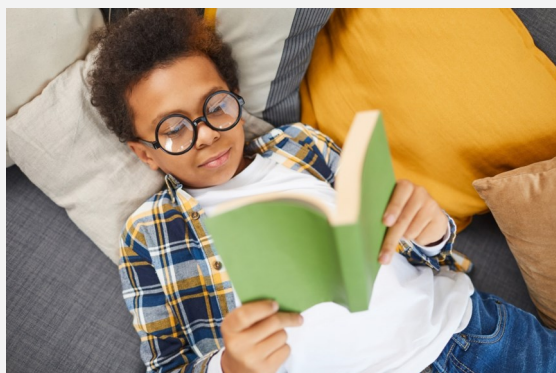
On May 2, 2019, Governor Kemp signed into law SB 48 (Dyslexia Bill), the first of its kind in the state of Georgia.

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT DYSLEXIA SCREENING IN ACTION

In August 2024, all students in K through 3rd grade in the Muscogee County School District (MCSD) will be tested for signs of Dyslexia. This is because of a law called Georgia Senate Bill (SB) 48.

If any students are found to have Dyslexia, they will get special help right away. In the school year 2020-2021, MCSD was picked by the state to be in a Dyslexia Pilot program for three years. Back then, only three schools took part. But starting this August, all the elementary schools in MCSD will be part of the program.

Dyslexia is most commonly linked with trouble learning to read. It affects a child's ability to know and use the sounds in language.



SIGNS OF DYSLEXIA

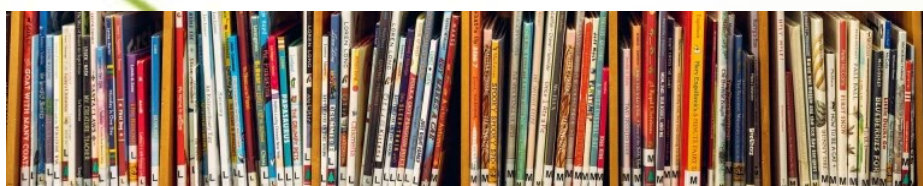
Pre-school years:

- Trouble learning common nursery rhymes
- Difficulty learning/remembering alphabet letter names
- Seems unable to recognize letters in his/her own name
- Mispronounces familiar words; persistent "baby talk"
- Doesn't recognize rhyming patterns like cat, bat, rat
- A family history of reading and/or spelling difficulties

Kindergarten and 1st Grade:

- Will use pictures on a page to "read"
- Does not understand that words come apart
- Complains about how hard reading is
- Cannot sound out even simple words like cat, map, nap
- Does not connect letters with their sounds

Source: <https://dyslexia.yale.edu/dyslexia/signs-of-dyslexia/>
Sally Shaywitz, *Overcoming Dyslexia*, p. 122-123

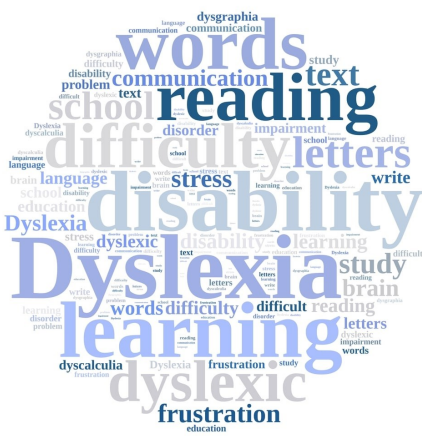


Dyslexia screening and instruction will focus on these basic reading skills:
Phonological and phonemic awareness * Sound symbol recognition
Alphabet knowledge * Rapid naming * Decoding skills



DYSLEXIA SCREENING PROCESS

All students in grades PreK – 3rd Grade at MSCD will take a reading test called STAR Early Literacy or STAR Reading in August 2024. Based on results, they may also take the STAR Curriculum Based Measurement (CBM) with their parents' permission. Teachers will use the results from these tests to decide if students need extra help. They will keep track of how well students are doing and if the extra help is making a difference.



STAR Early Literacy is a tool made for **kids in pre-K through 3rd grade** who are just starting to read. It checks how well they can hear and recognize sounds, understand letters and words, know what words mean, and understand what they read. It gives teachers helpful information to know what to teach next and help all students become good readers.

STAR CBM is a test that helps figure out if **students in grades K-3** have dyslexia. It also checks how well they can read, understand what they read, and learn basic reading skills. It looks at the important skills that students need to do well in school.

STAR Reading is a test that checks how well **students in Kindergarten through 10th grade** can read. It looks at different things like knowing words, understanding vocabulary, comprehension, and how smoothly they read. The test is made to match the age of the student and follows the reading standards set by the state and country. STAR Reading is used for different reasons, like checking progress, finding areas where a student needs help, and making plans for teaching and learning.



Testing for signs of dyslexia is a helpful way to find and address problems with reading and writing skills. However, just because the test shows signs of dyslexia doesn't automatically mean that a student definitely has dyslexia. You need to do more than just the test to diagnose dyslexia.



DYSLEXIA RESOURCE GUIDE FOR GA FAMILIES

- Created as a resource to answer frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- Developed by the Georgia Department of Education
- Includes Dyslexia's definition, its characteristics, and screenings
- Explains what to expect at your child's school
- Lists ways to help your child at home
- Lists additional supports and resources

Source: <https://lor2.gadoe.org/gadoe/file/596a0f6c-fe19-451d-8a6a-65b448c9ca8b/1/Dyslexia-Resource-Guide-for-Georgia-Families.pdf>

DYSLEXIA RESOURCES for Teachers and Parents

International Dyslexia Association - has supports for families plus resources

<https://dyslexiaida.org/>

Cox Campus - offers a course with videos and lessons—all

<https://learn.coxcampus.org/courses/gadoe-dyslexia-video-series/>

Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) - provides access to videos, updates, parent resources, and presentations

<https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/Dyslexia.aspx>

Dyslexia: where "challenge" becomes "chance to shine".