



Administrative Regulations

South San Antonio Independent School District

E – Special Programs: Dyslexia Training	EHB
Page 1 of 3	
Dyslexia Training - 2024	

The District provides regular training opportunities for teachers of students with dyslexia that include new research and practices for educating students with dyslexia.

South San ISD has a partnership with The Scottish Rite Learning Center of South Texas Dyslexia Therapist Training Program.

Educators providing services to students with a diagnosis of dyslexia in South San ISD will attend the training outlined in this document.

Teachers attending this training will have the opportunity to become fully licensed Certified Academic Language Therapists (CALT). They also have the option to simply be at a practitioner level with SSISD.

This two-year comprehensive training is designed for teachers of students with dyslexia using research based, proven intervention techniques and is accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Educational Council (IMSLEC). Credit toward a Masters in Special Education Specializing in Dyslexia is available through several Universities.

The program offers training in:

- Educational identification of dyslexia
- Characteristics of dyslexia
- *Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia*, a multisensory, structured approach to teaching developed at Scottish Rite for Children
- Classroom strategies and techniques used for students with dyslexia
- Presentation of parent and teacher information seminars

Training participants can expect a rigorous and intensive training program with outside reading and/or written homework assignments and authentic opportunities to demonstrate mastery.

Graduates of the Dyslexia Therapist Training Program will receive a certificate of completion with the title of **Dyslexia Therapist**. Graduates who hold a Master’s degree will be eligible to sit for the Alliance National Registration Exam, administered by the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA), to become Certified Academic Language Therapists (CALTs). Graduates who successfully complete the Alliance National Registration Exam will also be eligible to apply to become a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist, as defined by Texas HB 461, (2009 Session of the Texas Legislature).



Administrative Regulations

South San Antonio Independent School District

Curriculum: *Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia*

Take Flight is designed for small group instruction (no more than four-six students) for a minimum of 45 minutes per day, five days each week. Alternatively, lessons can be taught for 60 minutes each day for four days a week. *Take Flight* includes 132 lessons for a total of 230 hours of direct instruction.

Take Flight contains the five components of effective reading instruction supported by the National Reading Panel research meta-analysis:

1. Phonemic Awareness in *Take Flight* includes a systematic exploration of the articulation of phonemes and is fully integrated within decoding and spelling instruction. All phoneme-grapheme correspondence rules are explicitly introduced allowing time for practice toward accuracy and automaticity in the application of **2. phonic skills** and for more guided reading practice with controlled and regular text. There is also expanded use of etymology in teaching word analysis strategies.

3. Vocabulary is expanded and enriched by developing morphological knowledge, word relationships, figurative language, syntax, and semantics by direct instruction and in the context of reading.

4. Fluency instruction incorporates guided and timed repeated reading of decodable words, phrases, and connected text. Incentives, concrete measures of progress, and daily home practice are also important elements of fluency training.

A combination of techniques is used for instruction in **5. reading comprehension**, including comprehension monitoring, question generalization, story structure, summarizing, and inferencing. Students also learn how to utilize graphic and semantic organizers when reading narrative and expository texts.

Take Flight also aligns with the *Dyslexia Handbook, 2021 Update* by delivering the critical, evidence-based components of instruction in accordance with the required delivery of instruction:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Phonological awareness● Sound-symbol association● Syllabication● Orthography● Morphology● Syntax● Reading Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Simultaneous, multisensory (VATK)● Systematic and cumulative● Explicit instruction● Diagnostic teaching to automaticity● Synthetic Instruction● Analytic Instruction● Reading Fluency
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Administrative Regulations

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With *Take Flight*, students will learn all 44 phonemes of the English language, 96 grapheme-phoneme correspondence rules, and 87 affixes. The students will also learn spelling rules for base words and derivatives. Practice opportunities are also provided that are designed to improve oral reading fluency. Finally, *Take Flight* introduces comprehension and vocabulary building strategies for both narrative and expository text in the context of oral reading exercise, preparing students for successful, independent reading.

Training Structure: 2-year training offered to all district dyslexia teachers

First Year Requirements:

- Attend the three-week introductory classes (lecture, observation, practicum, reading and other homework assignments) in the summer of 2023.
- Attend four full-day seminars and one approved professional conference during the 2023-2024 academic school year.
- Complete five demonstration lessons with a local dyslexia intervention class. All five demonstration lessons must be completed with a passing score of 85 by May 31st.
- Submit five book reports from an approved list of professional books during the introductory course.
- Implement and maintain dyslexia intervention classes of *Take Flight* with at least three groups (minimum of 45 minutes per group) five days a week OR at least three groups (minimum of 60 minutes per group) four days a week.
- Must reach lesson 65 with at least one group to qualify for Advanced Training.

Second Year requirements:

- Attend the one-week advanced classes (lecture, observation, practicum, reading and other homework assignments) in the summer of 2024.
- Attend four full-day seminars and one approved professional conference during the 2024-2025 academic school year.
- Complete five demonstration lessons in the second year of *Take Flight* with a local dyslexia intervention class. All five demonstration lessons must be completed with a passing score of 85 by May 31st.
- Maintain dyslexia intervention classes using *Take Flight* with at least three groups.