

**LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
OPERATIONS STEERING COMMITTEE:
SENATE BILL 114
Dyslexia Screening Mandate**

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SENATE BILL 114

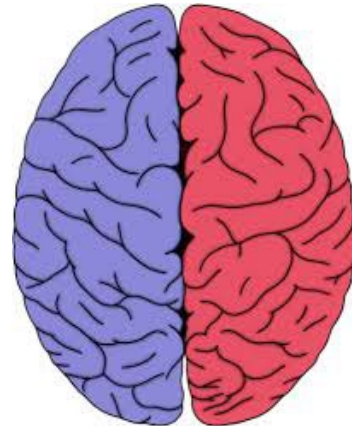
On July 10, 2023, Governor Newsom signed **Senate Bill 114** into law. The new law took effect January 1, 2024. The bill specifically adds **Education Code Section 53008**, entitled “**Screening for Risk of Reading Difficulties**,” which outlines new requirements; requires schools to **screen students in kindergarten through 2nd grade for reading delays, including dyslexia.**

Section 53008, states:

On or before January 31, 2024, the state board shall appoint an independent panel of experts for the purpose of creating an **approved list** of evidence-based, culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate screening instruments for pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 to assess pupils for risk of reading difficulties, **including possible neurological disorders** such as dyslexia.

WHAT IS DYSLEXIA?

- Specific learning disability that is **neurobiological**; which means the brain can physically change and improve the ability to read with intervention that breaks down language and teaches the reader to decode based on syllable types and spelling rules
- Characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and **poor spelling and decoding abilities**.
- Difficulties typically result from a **deficit in the phonological component of language** that is often **unexpected** in relation to other cognitive abilities.



SB 114: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SCHOOLS?

1. On or before **June 30, 2025**, schools **must adopt**, at a public meeting, one or more **screening instruments** from the list approved by the State Board appointed panel to assess students for risk of reading difficulties.
2. Beginning with the **2025–26 school year**, and annually thereafter, schools **must assess each student in kindergarten through 2nd grade** for risk of reading difficulties using the screening instrument(s) adopted.
3. Schools need to **develop the requisite notice** indicating that students are eligible for screening and the option of parents or guardians to opt out of the screening, in writing, at least 15 days before the screenings will be administered.
4. If a student enrolls in a school after the screening has already been administered to other students in that grade, the school has **45 days after the student's enrollment to complete the screening** unless parents opt out.

SB 114: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SCHOOLS?

5. **Parents must be notified of the results of the screening**, along with information as to how to interpret the results, no more than **45 calendar days** after the screening is administered. These results must also include any next steps, such as the availability of services available to students if they are identified as being at risk for reading difficulties.

6. According to the new law, if students are determined to be “**at risk**” they shall be provided with services and supports to address their needs, which may include:

- **Evidence-based literacy instruction focused on the pupil’s specific needs**
- Progress monitoring
- Early intervention in the regular general education program
- One-on-one or small group tutoring
- Further evaluation or diagnostic assessment

ACTION STEPS (October 2023 – July 2025)

- Formed a ***K-2 Reading Assessment Team*** to spearhead work; composed of teachers and administrators ☒
- Completed curriculum evaluation to evaluate reading instruction in alignment with SB114 ☒
- Educate TK-5 teachers on SB114 ☒
- Schedule grade level training days (2024-2025) and additional HMH professional development to support teachers with the implementation ☒
- Bring screeners to Board of Education for consideration and approval ☒
- Develop a intervention plans for students identified on screener
- Train teacher/staff on new components at timeline of procedures/protocols

UNIVERSAL SCREENER: K- 2



Kindergarten

McClass Diesel 8 is a digital screener designed to identify early indicators of dyslexia in students. It assesses key literacy skills such as phonological awareness, decoding, letter-sound correspondence, and reading fluency.



1st – 2nd Grade

Amira is an AI-powered reading assessment and tutoring tool that can be used as a dyslexia screener. It listens to students read aloud and analyzes their oral reading fluency, decoding skills, and error patterns in real time. Amira helps identify students who may be at risk for dyslexia by flagging reading behaviors commonly associated with the condition.

QUESTIONS

