



Special Education Operating Procedures

South San Antonio Independent School District

DYSLEXIA SERVICES

Dyslexia is a learning disability that affects reading and writing skills. It's caused by differences in the parts of the brain that process language. Symptoms include:

- Difficulty reading fluently or accurately;
- Poor spelling and decoding skills;
- Mispronouncing words;
- Mixing up words that look similar;
- Writing letters and numbers backwards or upside down;
- Delayed learning to read;
- Difficulty learning new words;
- Problems with reading comprehension;
- Reduced reading experience; and
- Reduced academic success, etc.

Texas state law requires that public school students be screened and tested, as appropriate, for dyslexia and related disorders at appropriate times in accordance with a program approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE). The program approved by the SBOE must include screening for each student at the end of the kindergarten year and during first grade.

Under state and federal law, school districts have the responsibility to identify, locate, and evaluate all children suspected of having a disability and who need special education and related services, commonly referred to as the Child Find obligation. When a student is suspected of having dyslexia, school districts must follow procedures for conducting a **Full and Individual Initial Evaluation (FIIE)** under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to comply with Child Find mandates.

When concerning dyslexia, any multidisciplinary team convened to review a referral for an FIIE or to determine a student's eligibility for special education must include at least one **member with specific knowledge** regarding the reading process, dyslexia and related disorders, and dyslexia instruction.

Once identified, a school district must ensure **evidence-based dyslexia instruction** is delivered with fidelity by a Provider of Dyslexia Instruction (PDI) to students with dyslexia or a related disorder. This instruction will include the required instructional and delivery components found in the Texas SBOE's Dyslexia Handbook. Parents/guardians will be provided information regarding the **student's progress** as a result of their dyslexia instruction every grading period.



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Districts are also required to report information regarding the identification of and services provided to students with dyslexia, as well as the results of the screening for dyslexia required for each student in Kindergarten and first grade, through the Texas Student Data System Public Education Information Management System (**TSDS PEIMS**).

Training that enables an educator to understand and recognize dyslexia, as well as implement instruction to meet the educational needs of their students with dyslexia, is provided for teachers. Districts are also required to provide **parents** of students enrolled in the district information on the characteristics of dyslexia, the evaluation and identification of dyslexia, effective instructional strategies for teaching students with dyslexia, the qualifications of and contact information for PDIs at each campus or school, instructional accommodations and modifications, the steps in the special education process, and how to request a copy and access the electronic version of the SBOE's "Dyslexia Handbook".

Screening

All kindergarten and first grade students in the district are screened for dyslexia. First grade students are screened no later than **January 31st** of each school year, and Kindergarten students are screened before the end of each school year. The results of this screening are shared with parents following the end of the screening window.

Students with screening results that indicate a potential risk for Dyslexia will be closely monitored through the campus RtI process.

Referral/Identification

Students suspected of a disability and the need for specialized instruction are referred for a Full and Individual Initial Evaluation through Special Education.

Instruction

The district serves students identified with dyslexia using research-based practices and curricula that meet the critical, evidence-based components of dyslexia instruction as outlined in the Texas Dyslexia Handbook, 2024 Update. Providers of Dyslexia Instruction may be general education teachers (Dyslexia Instructors) or special education teachers who are fully trained in the District's adopted instructional materials for students with dyslexia. Instruction is delivered to students in a small group setting and implemented with fidelity according to each program's guidelines.

Teacher Training and Parent Information



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Every year, all classroom teachers are provided training designed to build understanding and recognition of dyslexia, as well as strategies for implementing instruction to meet the educational needs of their students with dyslexia. For parents, the district hosts an annual Dyslexia Information Seminar to help educate parents on the characteristics of dyslexia, how the special education evaluation process works, and the supports available for students with dyslexia. The District also maintains a parent information page on the Dyslexia website, titled *Dyslexia 101 for Parents* by Marianne Sunderland.

Note: What does the district have in place for this?

***Add links to information about Dyslexia