Castro County SSA Dyslexia Program

Awareness for Educators and Parents

For more information on eligibility, evaluation requests, and services available under IDEA and Section 504, please visit:

Parent's Guide to the ARD Process

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What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

Instruction: Reading By Design

The Region 4 ESC Reading by Design Program is a systematic, multisensory set of instructional routines including: phonological awareness, sound-symbol association, orthography, morphology, syntax, reading comprehension, and fluency.

Who Delivers Instruction?

Instruction is delivered 4 times per week for 45 minutes by a Provider of Dyslexia Instruction

trained in Reading by Design.

Assessment and Identification

All public-school students are required to be screened for dyslexia while in kindergarten and grade 1. Additionally, students enrolling in public schools in Texas must be assessed for dyslexia and related disorders “at appropriate times” (TEC §38.003).

Effective Strategies

Explicit and systematic instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, word recognition, spelling, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension is key to teaching dyslexia students.
Other effective strategies include self-monitoring, memory techniques, explicit organization and time management instruction, and structured review processes.

Possible Accommodations

- Copies of notes (teacher- or peer-provided)
- Note-taking assistance
- Additional time on class assignments and tests
- Reduced or shortened assignments (chunking into manageable units)
- Alternative test location that reduces distractions
- Priority seating assignment
- Oral reading or directions of written material
- Word banks, audiobooks, text-to-speech, speech-to-text
- Electronic spellers, dictionaries, formula charts, adaptive learning tools

Parent Resources

- International Dyslexia Association
- Academic Language Therapy Association
- Bookshare
- Learning Ally
- Talking Books
- Dyslexia Handbook - English
- Dyslexia Handbook - Spanish

Contacts for Further Information

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