



**DWG Meeting Summary**  
**Friday, January 23, 2026**  
**9:00AM - 3:00PM**

**Attendees**

- Dyslexia Working Group: Mary Beth O’Hagan, Janine Runfola, Sarah Huffman, Jenny Imel, Breann Smith, Marcie Eichmann, Cindy Kanuch, Brian Rose, Laura Swanson, Sissy Peters, April Gerakos-Rooker
- Colorado Department of Education: Rachael Lovendahl, Tammy Yetter, Mandy Harris, Rhonda Haniford, Ellen Hunter, Josiah Columbo-Espinoza (additional CDE members participated in the dyslexia simulation)
- Public: Sherri Kerekffy, Megan Sobeck, Jo Martell, Brenda Sand
- Facilitators: Kara Schmitt and Betsy Kummer

**Time and Location**

9:00AM - 3:00PM

In person Colorado Health Foundation, 1780 Pennsylvania Street, Denver, CO 80203, Room 124

**Helpful Links**

[Dyslexia Working Group | CDE](#)

[Colorado Department of Education Dyslexia Handbook \(Feb. 2020\)](#)

[Dyslexia Pilot Program](#)

**Meeting Objectives**

- November meeting follow-up
- Legislative updates
- Budget updates
- Drafting recommendations for 2025-2026

**Meeting Activities**

**1. Welcome/Introductions**

**2. Dyslexia Simulation**

- Attendees participated in a dyslexia simulation to better understand the experience of students with dyslexia and consider ways to promote greater awareness and support

**3. CDE Updates**

- Following HB26-1050 “Optional Individualized Readiness Plans for School”
- SMART Act hearing last Friday - posted on State Legislature website
- Legislation last spring - CDE approved to develop three trainings - Students at risk for or identified with dyslexia, Students with Individual Education Programs (IEPs), Students who are Multilingual learners
- Assessment Review for READ Act - rubric draft in process - will post for stakeholder feedback in February

**4. Small group work to begin identifying recommendations**

- Reviewed legislation to identify what protocols would be helpful
- Created “Now what” flow chart - assessment and instruction [guidance on how/when certain steps/actions should happen]

*\*\*Note: The PD and RANDA topics will continue after the licensure presentation in March*

**5. Public Comment**

- No public comment

**6. Next Steps/Closing**

- Mary Bivens is available for the March meeting
- Members encouraged to post questions/ requests for information into recommendation template

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Friday, March 13, 2026 - Virtual 9:00AM – 11:00AM
- Friday, May 8, 2026 - In Person (TBD) 9:00AM – 3:00PM