COLORADO
Department of Education

Dyslexia Working Group
September 18, 2026
Meeting Summary

Attendees

- DWG: Patrick McGinty, Breanna Smith, Sissy Peters, Marcie Eichmann, Jenny Imel, Brian Rose, Sarah Huffman, Mary Beth O' Hagan, new member- Carolyn Storz
- CDE: Tamara Viehl, Tammy Yetter, Ellen Hunter, Emily Ottinger, Rachael Lovendahl, Joanna Bruno, Rhonda Haniford, Jennifer Zinn
- Facilitators: Betsy Kummer, Kara Schmitt

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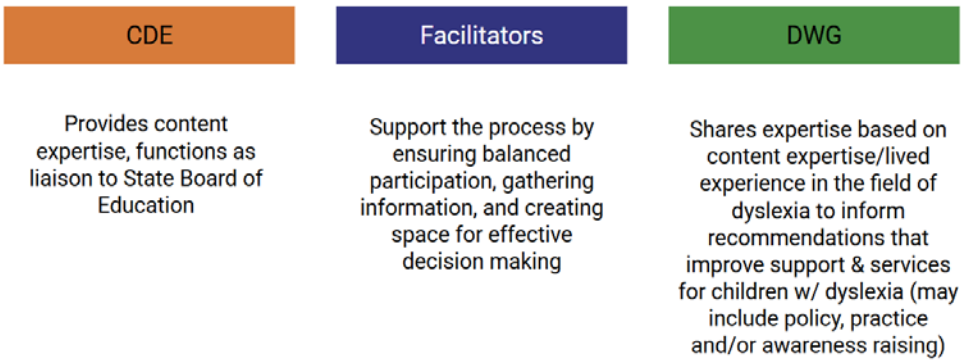
1. **Introduction/Welcome**
2. **Reminder of DWG Roles/Purpose**

DWG Responsibilities:



Roles:



3. **CDE Updates**

    - Rules for READ Act- CDE is still reviewing feedback on the READ Act Rules. More than 175 lines of comments were submitted during the public feedback window.
    - READ Act assessments and Rules will be presented to the State Board of Education in October. The public can continue to give feedback during public comment. Three different options to board for assessments - still opportunity for public comment
    - Updates to the CDE strategic plan goal focused on 3rd grade reading achievement will be presented at the October State Board of Education meeting as part of the broader Accelerating Student Outcomes presentation.
    - The Elementary Literacy and School Readiness Office is accepting applications for multiple positions in the office: Director and Literacy Curriculum & Assessment Specialist

4. **Review 2025-2026 DWG Recommendations and Identify New Priorities**

    DWG members spent time reviewing the 2025-2026 report, discussing potential priorities for the new year, and assessing options based on their potential for impact and degree of feasibility. Initial items include:

    - Tier 2/Tier 3 instruction
    - Provide detailed guidance on a dyslexia toolkit – including guidance on screener rollout, READ Act, etc.
    - Alignment/Collaboration with other dyslexia-focused groups
    - Professional development (cohorts, modules)

5. **Experts/Collaborators to Hear From**

    Members of the DWG identified an initial list of experts and collaborators who might be invited to attend future DWG meetings to share learning and explore areas of aligned work. (For example, various dyslexia advocacy organizations, school district representatives - especially from rural areas - who have had success supporting students with dyslexia and their families, mental health experts, communications experts, etc.)

6. **Other Updates:**

    - IDA conference https://idarmb.org/reading-in-the-rockies/
    - DWG Recruitment: Need 2 parent reps, 1 secondary ed rep, school of choice rep, school district literacy specialist. Link to application.

7. **Public Comment:**

   - Brenda Sand: shared gratitude for the work of the DWG
   - Anna: lean into parent communications so they have the info they need, use K-3 assessment on 4th and 5th graders

8. **Closing**