Dyslexia Working Group

2022 Annual Report

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> By: Dyslexia Working Group

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Introduction

House Bill 19-1134 (H.B. 19-1134) was passed during the 2019 legislative session, which called for the creation of a Dyslexia Working Group (DWG). See section 22-20.5-103, C.R.S. According to the statute, the Commissioner of Education was required to convene a working group to improve the educational outcomes for students with dyslexia. The DWG has seven tasks outlined in statute:

- 1. Analyze current national and statewide data related to students identified as having dyslexia, including but not limited to identification rates and achievement rates;
- 2. Analyze the implementation and demonstrated effectiveness in other states of statewide legislation for dyslexia screening, educator training, and other dyslexia related laws;
- 3. Identify and recommend appropriate dyslexia screening tools and processes as well as comprehensive assessments that address the recognized challenges of dyslexia, including phonological processing, phonemic awareness, and decoding and encoding skills;
- 4. Identify and recommend a statewide plan for supporting students who are identified as having dyslexia, including specific intervention structures and their components, which must include evidence-based interventions, progress-monitoring systems, and data collection systems;
- 5. Identify and recommend components of dyslexia awareness training for Colorado educators, including the content, target audience, time frame for training, and projected cost;
- 6. Identify and recommend educator training for in-state approved programs of preparation for teacher and alternative teacher programs and recommended training for current educators, based on effective practice in other states, as well as recommendation from state and national organizations focusing on literacy. The recommendations concerning educator training may include the content, target audience, time frame for training, and projected cost; and,
- 7. Provide recommendations to CDE concerning the design and implementation of the pilot program.

In addition to these activities, the Dyslexia Working Group must, "analyze and integrate, as appropriate, the work and recommendations of other previous and ongoing state initiatives related to improving the identification and support of students who have dyslexia" 22-20.5-103(3), C.R.S.

Membership and Facilitation

Members of the Dyslexia Working Group

The authorizing legislation for the DWG required the group to include the following members:

- A parent of a child identified with dyslexia;
- A parent of a child identified with dyslexia and a disability;
- A school district literacy specialist;
- A school district director of special education;
- A state or national literacy expert;
- A state or national dyslexia expert;
- Two elementary grade teachers, one of whom teaches in a rural or small rural school district;



- A principal of an elementary school in rural school district or an employee of a BOCES who has expertise as a literacy specialist;
- A faculty member of an IHE who teaches in an approved educator preparation program for elementary grade teachers; and
- A member of the local chapter of the international dyslexia association.

The DWG is statutorily authorized through September 1, 2029. Members commit to serving for two years and may opt to serve a second two-year term. CDE solicits nominations and applications for the DWG to determine appointment recommendations for the Commissioner of Education. In determining its recommendation, CDE considers the quality of application packets, how the applicants meet the statutorily defined roles, and the applicants' ability to serve through the duration of the working group. At the direction of the Commissioner, CDE makes it a priority to include members who were representative from across the state, including small rural and rural districts, urban and suburban districts. Table 1 shows the membership of the DWG.

At the end of the 2020-21 school year, 5 positions were opened on the DWG as the first two-year term of initial members ended. The following members completed their service in the DWG, for which the department extends its gratitude:

- Alex Christy, Elementary Teacher
- Kathleen Collins, Rural Principal
- Amanda Harris, Rural Elementary Teacher
- Andrea Kamper, Parent of a child who is identified as having dyslexia
- Karen Leopold (deceased), member of the local chapter of an international dyslexia association

TABLE 1: Dyslexia Working Group Membership by Region and Role

Member	Region	Role
Holly Baker Hill	Metro	A state or national literacy expert
Jamie Brackney	Pikes Peak	A parent of a child who is identified as having dyslexia and a disability
Sarah Huffman	Southeast	Elementary teacher who is employed at an elementary school in a rural or small rural school district



Rita Robinson	Southeast	A principal who is employed at an elementary school in a rural school district or an employee of a board of cooperative services who has expertise as a literacy specialist
Tamara Durbin	Northeast	A school district director of special education
Kathleen Grubb	Metro Area	Elementary teacher
Karin Johnson	Metro Area	A parent of a child who is identified as having dyslexia and a disability
Sierra Loar	Metro Area	A parent of a child who is identified as having dyslexia
Jay Mayer	Metro Area	A member of the local chapter of an international dyslexia association
Kathy McCall	North Central	A school district literacy specialist
Laura Santerre - Lemmon	Metro Area	A state or national dyslexia expert
Jennifer Urbach	North Central	A faculty member of an institution of higher education who teaches in an approved educator preparation program for elementary grade teachers

CDE conducted an application process in the spring of 2022 to fill the open rural principal position, and at the time of the publication of this report, the application review process was underway.

Facilitation of the Working Group

For the 2021-22 school year, the department scheduled the DWG meetings for the following dates:

• November 12, 2021



- December 14, 2021
- February 25, 2022
- April 18, 2022
- May 23, 2022

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the DWG conducted their work through online virtual meetings. All meetings of the DWG were open to the public; however, only working group members have an active role in the meeting. CDE has developed a DWG webpage

(http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/codyslexiaworkgroup) where all meeting dates, locations, and notes are posted for transparency.

The DWG has two working groups that focus on the different components of the DWG's charge. The working groups for the 2021-22 school year were (1) teacher training, relating to task 5 of the DWG, and (2) assessment protocol, relating to task 3 of the DWG.

Implementation Updates

Based on the recommendations from the DWG in its 2021 report, CDE has initiated the following actions.

Recommendations 1 and 2 from the 2021 DWG report was to disseminate DWG recommendations and resources with Colorado agencies and embed the recommendations and resources into a number of CDE initiatives, including the DWG's Potential Indicators of Dyslexia by Grade Level. CDE is currently embedding the resources and recommendations from the DWG in its Dyslexia Handbook. Following the update, CDE will be sharing the handbook as requested by the DWG.

Recommendations 3 and 4 from the 2021 DWG report related to actions for the READ Act interim assessment list. Specifically, the recommendations were to (1) revise the CDE READ Act interim assessment review rubric by including the dyslexia indicators, and (2) use the revised rubric to review current READ Act interim assessments. As of the writing of this report, CDE has engaged the University of Massachusetts to revise the CDE READ Act interim assessments and those submitted to the department through a request for information process. Once the review is complete, CDE will present recommendations for updating the CDE READ Act interim assessment list to the State Board of Education for approval.

2021-2022 DWG Recommendations

Recommendation #1

As recommended in the 2021 Annual Report, the DWG continues to recommend that CDE revise the rubric to review current READ Act interim assessments by October 2022 and share that information with the groups the DWG identified (i.e., CDE, college and teacher preparation programs, Colorado government agencies, and educator training opportunities). Following the review, the DWG recommends that CDE create and disseminate a chart that indicates which subtests of approved interim measures assess specific dyslexia indicators.

Recommendation #2



The DWG has developed components of dyslexia awareness training for Colorado educators in fulfillment of task 5 of its legislative charge. The content, target audience, and time frame for training can be found in Appendix A. The DWG recommends the information be located on the CDE website and the CDE Dyslexia Handbook.

Recommendation #3

The DWG recommends that CDE post and disseminate the Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation for Dyslexia Identification Chart (see Appendix B) developed by the DWG as a resource for schools. The DWG recommends that Spanish-language assessments be added to the chart as well as specific test descriptions. The DWG recommends the information be located on the CDE website and the CDE Dyslexia Handbook.

Recommendation #4

The DWG recommends that CDE post and disseminate the Comprehensive Dyslexia Assessment Chart (see Appendix C) with the addition of a forthcoming flowchart and additional resources to be developed by the DWG to support the understanding of the levels of assessments.

Next Steps for the Dyslexia Working Group

For the 2022-23 school year, the focus for the DWG will be to:

- Continue to advise CDE on implementation of the dyslexia pilot project.
- Continue the work of the teacher training working group whose charge is to identify and recommend components of dyslexia awareness training for Colorado educators, including the content, target audience, time frame for training, and projected cost.
- The working group will complete identification of training content and resources, the timeframe for training, and the project costs.
- Continue the work of the assessment protocol working group whose charge is to identify and recommend appropriate dyslexia screening tools and processes as well as comprehensive assessments that address the recognized challenges of dyslexia, including phonological processing, phonemic awareness, and decoding and encoding skills.
- The working group will finalize their recommendations and additional resources.
- Begin an educator preparation program training working group whose charge will be to identify and
 recommend educator training for in-state approved programs of preparation for teachers and
 alternative teacher programs and recommended training for current educators, based on effective
 practices in other states, as well as recommendations from state and national organizations focusing on
 literacy.



Appendices

Appendix A

Potential Indicators of Dyslexia by Grade

Components of Dyslexia Awareness Training

The Dyslexia Working Group has recommended the following components for Dyslexia Awareness and Education for educators in the state of Colorado. The list is not exhaustive, and suptopics, resources, target audience, platforms/mode and time allocations should be adjusted as needed to reflect current research and the needs of educators.

Levels	Learning Outcomes	Subtopics	Resources	Target Audience	Platforms/Mode	Time
Level 1	Participants will develop empathy and understanding of those diagnosed with dyslexia., Participants will be able to explain dyslexia and its impact on students.	Understand the intent of House Bill (HB) 19-1134 Dyslexia Awareness: Definition Prevalence Description, indicators Brain Research Myths Equity Social/Emotional Impact	CDE Dyslexia Handbook HB 19-1134 Stories, guest speakers READ Act International Dyslexia Association (IDA) website IDA Rocky Mountain Branch	 PK - 12th grade licensed educators related service providers school psychologists social workers counselors administrators paraprofessionals 	Consider offering multiple platforms: Asynchronous recordings Synchronous webinars In-person Online modules Utilize BOCES for rural	2-3 hours



		 Co-occurring conditions Strengths Multi-language learners 	<u>Myths video</u> <u>https://www.gaa</u> <u>blab.com/dyslexi</u> <u>a-myths</u>		education opportunities	
	Participants will understand the importance of access to appropriate instruction and the use of accommodations.	 What teachers need to know and be able to do accommodations access & instruction student agency Universal Design Learning (UDL) 	CDE Dyslexia Handbook Dyslexia Simulation Understood.org Reading Rockets Universal Design Learning (cast.org) YES! Ambassadors			
Level 2	Participants will appropriately respond to students with dyslexia by knowing and applying evidence- based literacy instruction,	Structured Literacy Principles of learning and effective instruction (i.e., build on student strengths, feedback, review) Teaching & Learning Cycle,	CDE-approved list: OG, Evidence-Based Teacher Trainings, SIMR, Lexia CDE Dyslexia	 Elementary teachers Secondary English Language Arts teachers literacy specialists 	Consider offering multiple platforms: • Asynchronous recordings • Synchronous	 K-3 teachers: CDE READ Act Requirement structured literacy instruction course 5-8 hours (in addition to CDE READ Act



intervention and classroom accommodations	including progress monitoring Assistive Technology	Handbook Learning Ally Reading Rockets Toolkit	• • •	special education PK-12 Speech Language Pathologists Occupational Therapists school psychologists	•	webinars In-person Online modules Utilize BOCES	training requirement) 4th-6th teachers: • structured literacy instruction course • additional 5-8 hours
Participants will have the knowledge and resources to engage with families regarding the identification process and appropriate instructional responses.	Identification process: • screening • MTSS • Indicators • 504 plan • IDEA & IEP's How to speak with families regarding a teacher's concern How to speak with families regarding a parent's concern Helping parents understand types of assessments and assessment processes Understand the impact that dyslexia has on families Supporting the development of student advocacy and	Understood.org <u>IDA Rocky</u> <u>Mountain Branch</u> CDE Dyslexia Handbook <u>COKid</u> <u>Parents Dyslexia</u> <u>Screening Info</u> (draft) <u>It's OK to Say</u> <u>Dyslexia</u> (use sentence frames for speaking with families)		administrators		for rural education opportunities	 7th-12th teachers: access to curriculum using appropriate accommodations 3-5 hours Reading Specialists/Special Education: structured literacy instruction course additional 5-8 hours



		agency Helpful resources for families				
Level 3	Participants will understand indicators of dyslexia and the screening and identification process to implement specially designed instruction.	Screening Process Diagnostic Evaluation Process Tier 3 Instructional design & implementation (intensity, duration, frequency, progress monitoring)	Dyslexia Working Group documents (when completed) Screening and Evaluation Tools CDE Specific Learning Disability Resources: FAQ documents Creating a Body of Evidence	 Literacy Specialists Special Educators Psychologists Diagnosticians Literacy Therapists (Certified Academic Language Therapists, tutors) 	Consider offering multiple platforms: Asynchronous recordings Synchronous webinars In-person Online modules Utilize BOCES for rural education opportunities	5-8 hours



Appendix B

Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation for Dyslexia Identification Chart

The following chart is intended as a resource for specific norm-referenced measures and subtests that assess characteristics of dyslexia. Depending on examiner qualifications and training, these measures may be administered for more in-depth assessment of dyslexia characteristics throughout the assessment process and as part of a Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation for Dyslexia Identification. Information about examiner qualifications and additional domains commonly associated with dyslexia (e.g., comorbidities) can be found below the chart. The DWG recommends that norm-referenced Spanish-language assessments be added to the chart, as well as the specific test descriptions for the final online version.

Skill Area	Specific Measures	Beginning Age/Grade Level	Test Description specific test descriptions to be added for final/online chart
Phonological Processing			
Phonological Awareness	 CTOPP-2 Elision Blending Words Phoneme Isolation Sound Matching WIAT-4 Phonemic Proficiency KTEA-3 Phonological Processing 	Ages 4+ Ages 4+ Ages 7+ Ages 4-6 Grades PK+ Grades PK+	
Verbal & Phonological Memory	 CTOPP-2 Nonword Repetition Memory for Digits 	Ages 4+ Ages 4+	
Rapid Automatized Naming	 CTOPP-2 Rapid Letter Naming Rapid Digit Naming Rapid Color Naming Rapid Object Naming XTEA-3 Letter Naming Facility 	Ages 4+ Ages 4+ Ages 4-6 Ages 4-6 Grades K+ Grades PK+	

Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation for Dyslexia Identification Recommended Reading Battery*



	Object Naming Facility		
Letter & Letter-Sound Knowledge*	1) WIAT-4 Word Reading	Grades PK+	*Initial sections of these tasks include some letter
	2) WJ-IV-Ach Letter-Word ID	Grades PK+	& letter-sound items
	3) KTEA-3 Letter & Word Recognition	Grades PK+	
	4) WIST Sound-Symbol Knowledge	Ages 7+	
Single-word Reading (untimed)*	1) WIAT-4 Word Reading	Grades PK+	*These same tasks progress to word reading items
	2) WJ-IV-Ach Letter-Word ID	Grades PK+	
	3) KTEA-3 Letter & Word Recognition	Grades PK+	
	4) WIST Word Identification	Ages 7+	
Nonword Decoding (untimed)	1) WIAT-4 Pseudoword Decoding	Grades 1+	
	2) WJ-IV-Ach Word Attack	Grades PK+*	*WJ-IV-Ach Word Attack items are letter-sound
	3) KTEA-3 Nonsense Word Decoding	Grades 1+	identification for early grades
	4) WIST Sound-Symbol Knowledge	Ages 7+	
Oral Reading Fluency			
	1) TOWRE-2		
	 Sight Word Efficiency 	Grades 1+	
	Phonemic Decoding Efficiency	Grades 1+	
	2) WIAT-4	Grades 1+	
Single-word & nonwords	 Orthographic Fluency 	Grades 3+	
	Decoding Fluency	Glades 5+	
	3) KTEA-3	Grades 1+	
	 Word Recognition Fluency 	Grades 3+	
	Decoding Fluency		
Passages	1) GORT-5 Reading Fluency	Grades 1+	
1 0330853	2) WIAT-4 Oral Reading Fluency	Grades 1+	
Spelling (encoding)	1) WIAT-4 Spelling	Grades K+	
	2) WJ-IV-Ach Spelling	Grades PK+	
	3) KTEA-3 Spelling	Grades K+	
	4) WIST Spelling	Ages 7+	



*This list is not exhaustive but provides a sample of specific norm-referenced measures that may be used to assess word-level reading-related skills in more depth and as part of a Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation for Dyslexia Identification. It should be updated as needed to reflect current research and new or updated versions of appropriate norm-referenced measures.

CTOPP-2 - Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing, Second Edition

KTEA-3 - Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement, Third Edition

GORT-5 - Gray Oral Reading Tests, Fifth Edition

TOWRE-2 - Test of Word Reading Efficiency, Second Edition

WIAT-4 - Wechsler Individual Achievement Test, Fourth Edition

WIST - Word Identification and Spelling Test

WJ-IV-ACH - Woodcock-Johnson, Fourth Edition, Tests of Achievement

WIAT-4 & KTEA-3 Dyslexia Index Scores – The WIAT-4 & KTEA-3 Dyslexia Index Scores involve administration of selected tasks for the purpose of brief screening for risk for dyslexia. The Dyslexia Index does not constitute a comprehensive assessment but can be helpful in further evaluating dyslexia risk.

WIAT-4 Dyslexia Index tasks	1) Phonemic Proficiency	Grades PK-3
	2) Word Reading	
	1) Word Reading	Grades 4+
	2) Orthographic Fluency	
	3) Pseudoword Decoding	
KTEA-3 Dyslexia Index tasks	1) Phonological Processing	Grades K-1
	2) Letter & Word Recognition	
		_
	1) Nonsense Word Decoding	Grades 2+
	2) Spelling	
	3) Word Recognition Fluency	

<u>Qualification for Test Administration</u>: All measures in the above chart require similar general user qualifications, which are described on test publisher websites (e.g., <u>Qualification Level B</u> for Pearson assessments). All qualified users should have formal training in administration, scoring, and interpretation of assessments.



<u>Additional Domains</u>: Measures in the Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation for Dyslexia Identification chart assess for possible word-level reading and spelling difficulties associated with dyslexia. It is also important to note that it is common for students with dyslexia to have co-occurring (i.e., comorbid) challenges, such as ADHD, oral language difficulties (developmental language disorder), problems with written language (dysgraphia), math difficulties (dyscalculia), and/or social-emotional concerns. It is therefore important to assess other potential areas of challenge, as well as to identify strengths within an individual student's profile. Information about dyslexia and common comorbidities can be found in the CDE Dyslexia Handbook (chapter 7.4).



Appendix C

Comprehensive Dyslexia Assessment Chart

Comprehensive Dyslexia Assessment System

The following Comprehensive Dyslexia Assessment System resources are intended to support the understanding of READ ACT assessments, including increasing levels of assessments in the evaluation of risk for and identification of dyslexia.

Types of Assessments

• Universal Screener (Interim/Screening/Benchmark)

used to determine a student's risk for reading difficulties and the need for intervention. A universal screening applies to all students (<u>CDE Dyslexia</u> <u>Handbook</u>). <u>READ Act approved interim assessments.</u>

Analysis of Interim Screeners aligned with Indicators of Dyslexia (document to be developed by CDE)

• Formative

used to measure to what extent students are learning the material/content they are being taught.

• Progress monitoring

used to determine whether progress following instruction is adequate or whether more intensive or different intervention is required (<u>CDE Dyslexia</u> <u>Handbook</u>).

• Summative/Outcome

used to look at instructional outcomes and often provide a "big picture" of instruction. Summative and outcome measures can help in identifying positive and concerning trends about how the comprehensive or systemic approach to literacy instruction is meeting the needs of all students, as well as specific subsets of students with identified risk (<u>CDE Dyslexia Handbook</u>)

• Diagnostic Evaluation

used to identify a student's learning strengths and weaknesses and the underlying root cause of any academic difficulties. The information from this type of assessment can be used to further refine intervention. In some instances, a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation is essential in determining whether the profile fits the definition of a learning disorder and can provide a diagnosis or the identification of a specific disability.

* **READ ACT Diagnostic assessments** are required for students identified with a significant reading deficiency for the purpose of identifying the child's specific reading deficits(s) (CDE Website, January 2020). <u>READ Act approved diagnostic assessments</u>.

Analysis of Diagnostic Assessments aligned with Indicators of Dyslexia (document to be developed by CDE)

** Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation for Dyslexia- is frequently referred to as a diagnostic evaluation but is sometimes referred to as a multi-



disciplinary evaluation, psycho-educational evaluation, educational evaluation or comprehensive education evaluation. Regardless of the name, the purpose of this type of evaluation is to determine whether the individual demonstrates the characteristics of dyslexia and to rule out other causes of the identified reading/writing concerns. Testing for dyslexia can verify the presence of a specific learning disability/dyslexia, can aid in determining the severity of the dyslexia, and can provide the needed documentation for eligibility for specially designed instruction (special education) and accommodations throughout an individual's educational career from elementary school through college and postgraduate education. (<u>CDE Dyslexia</u> <u>Handbook</u>)

Assessment Types		Response to Interver is part of Multi-tiere Support/ <u>MTS</u>	ed Systems of	READ Act Approved Diagnostic Assessments for instruction*	Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation for Dyslexia Identification**
	Tier I	Tier II READ Plans- SRD	Tier III READ Plans- SRD		
Universal Screener (Interim/Screening/Benchmark) <u>READ ACT approved Interim</u> <u>Assessments</u> <u>How well does your interim screener</u> <u>identify risk for dyslexia?</u> (document to be developed by CDE) <u>Typical Screening Measures by Grade</u> <u>Level</u>	Fall	Fall	Fall	READ Act Approved Diagnostic- (specific sub skill or skills after SRD identification) READ Act approved D iagnostic A ssessments How well does your diagnostic assessment identify risk for dyslexia? (document to be developed by CDE)	Body of Evidence Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation for Dyslexia Identification Chart Family History (develop an exemplar) Educational History
Formative	Daily	Daily	Daily	Supplemental assessment	(MTSS/RTI, evidence-based intervention, progress
Progress monitoring		1 to 2 x per month	1 to 4 x per month	measures (document to be developed)	monitors, etc)
Universal Screener (Interim/Screening/Benchmark) READ ACT approved interim	Winter	Winter	Winter	Potential Indicators of Dyslexia	
Formative	Daily	Daily	Daily	Family History (develop an exemplar)	



Progress monitoring		1 to 2 x per	1 to 4 x per
		month	month
Summative/Outcome	Spring	Spring	Spring
CMAS (beginning in 3 rd grade)			
Universal Screener	End of	End of Year	End of Year
(Interim/Screening/Benchmark)	Year		
READ ACT approved interim			