

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

A Bill

SENATE BILL 749

4
5 By: Senator Elliott

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA HAVE
9 THEIR NEEDS MET BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM; AND FOR
10 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA
15 HAVE THEIR NEEDS MET BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
16 SYSTEM.

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 41, Subchapter 1 is amended
22 to add additional sections to read as follows:

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24 6-41-105. Screening and treatment for dyslexia and related disorders.

25 (a) As used in this section:

26 (1) "Dyslexia" means a disorder of constitutional origin
27 manifested by a difficulty in learning to read, write, or spell despite
28 conventional instruction, adequate intelligence, and social opportunity; and

29 (2) "Related disorders" means disorders similar to or related to
30 dyslexia, including without limitation developmental auditory imperception,
31 dysphasia, specific developmental dyslexia, developmental dysgraphia, and
32 developmental spelling disability.

33 (b) In accordance with a program approved by the State Board of
34 Education, a public school in this state shall test through use of reading
35 instruments each of its students in kindergarten through grade two (K-2) for
36 dyslexia and related disorders.



1 (c) The superintendent of each school district shall report in
2 writing:

3 (1) To the state board, the school district-wide results of the
4 reading instruments; and

5 (2) To the student's parent or guardian, the individual
6 student's results of the reading instruments.

7 (d) The state board shall provide for the treatment of any student
8 determined to have dyslexia or a related disorder.

9 (e) The state board may adopt rules necessary to administer this
10 section.

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12 6-41-106. Reading instruments for dyslexia and related disorders.

13 (a) The State Board of Education shall develop recommendations for
14 school districts to:

15 (1) Administer reading instruments designed to diagnose student
16 reading development and comprehension;

17 (2) Train educators in administering the reading instruments;
18 and

19 (3) Apply the results of the reading instruments to the
20 instructional program.

21 (b)(1)(A) The state board shall adopt a list of reading instruments
22 that a school district may use to diagnose student reading development and
23 comprehension.

24 (B) A school district may adopt a list of reading
25 instruments for use in the school district in addition to the reading
26 instruments on the state board's list.

27 (2) Each reading instrument adopted by the state board or a
28 school district shall:

29 (A) Be based on scientific research concerning reading
30 skills development and reading comprehension; and

31 (B) Provide for diagnosing the reading development and
32 comprehension of a student participating in a specialized reading program.

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34 6-41-107. Dyslexia and related disorder programs in school districts.

35 (a) A school district shall:

36 (1) Notify a student's parent or guardian, in English or in the

1 parent or guardian's native language, in writing by regular mail:

2 (A) Before an identification or assessment procedure is
3 used with the individual student; and

4 (B) Of all services and options available to the student
5 under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504, if the student is eligible;

6 (2) Implement strategies approved by the State Board of
7 Education for screening and techniques for treating dyslexia and related
8 disorders; and

9 (3) Purchase or develop a reading program for students with
10 dyslexia and related disorders approved by the state board.

11 (b) A teacher who screens and treats students with dyslexia and
12 related disorders shall be trained in instructional strategies that utilize
13 individualized, intensive, multisensory, phonetic methods, and a variety of
14 writing and spelling techniques.

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