

HERMITAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ACT 1039 OF 2017 INFORMATION

DYSLEXIA SCREENING AND INTERVENTION

WHAT IS DYSLEXIA?

So exactly what is dyslexia, and why should I know about it? Dyslexia is NOT a sign of low intelligence, laziness or poor vision. It is primarily associated with trouble reading. Dyslexia affects the way the brain processes written and spoken language.

According to the International Dyslexia Association, some of the signs associated with dyslexia include the following:

- Difficulty learning to speak
- Trouble learning letters and their sounds
- Difficulty organizing written and spoken language
- Trouble memorizing number facts
- Difficulty reading quickly enough to comprehend
- Trouble persisting with and comprehending longer reading assignments
- Difficulty spelling
- Trouble learning a foreign language
- Difficulty correctly doing math operations

Dyslexia is a lifelong condition; children will not outgrow it. A dyslexia diagnosis, however, does not mean the child will not be successful. Children with dyslexia can still understand complex ideas. They just need strategies and tools to help them process information in a different way.

There are many successful people who have dyslexia and have made great contributions to our society. The list ranges from Thomas Edison and Albert Einstein to Stephen Spielberg, Charles Schwab and Whoopi Goldberg. People with dyslexia are often very creative. They just need support and intervention, but it is important as educators that we realize that their struggles with reading can often lead to frustration. Students under the stress that dyslexia can add may lose the motivation to keep trying. That is why it is so important that students are given the tools they need to succeed.

SOURCE: ADE BLOG

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY IN ARKANSAS

Dyslexia was first addressed through legislation in Arkansas in 2013 through Act 1294. Act 1268 of 2015 was passed and signed into law as an effort to ensure that the needs of students with dyslexia were being met. Act 1039 of 2017 clarified the existing legislation, and added enforcement provisions for schools. This act also required the posting of information about dyslexia by school districts on their websites. Arkansas Department of Education is responsible for drafting rules to implement these laws.

HERMITAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT LITERACY PROGRAM

The Hermitage School District uses the standards from ADE as the minimum learning expectations for all students and to shape learning. The literacy focus includes phonemic awareness, phonics, grammar, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing. In grades K-3, the Journeys curriculum (Harcourt-Houghton Mifflin) is used as the core program. In grades 4 – 8, curriculum from Expeditionary Learning is used as the core program and is supplemented by other resources. Empowering Writers is also used to facilitate writing.

Struggling students are monitored very closely and their intervention is planned based upon their noted weaknesses. Sometimes, students work on the MindPlay program, or on I-Station, or in one-on-one settings with our literacy facilitators using a variety of resources, including Phonics First, while others work with their classroom teachers or highly-qualified para-professionals. Our school administrator and the SPRINT team, which is responsible for interventions to help improve student learning, monitor this process closely.

HERMITAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT DYSLEXIA PROGRAM

The Hermitage School District, in accordance with laws and ADE rules, uses **Phonics First** for dyslexia intervention. **Phonics First** implements evidence-based strategies that improve student achievement in reading. **Phonics First** employs the Orton-Gillingham principles of instruction to reading, is language-based, multisensory, structured, sequential, cumulative, cognitive, and flexible. **Phonics First** training provides our staff the knowledge and expertise to implement evidence-based strategies that improved student achievement in reading. The **Phonics First** programs are accredited through the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) under their Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading and through the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) at the Teaching Level and Instructor of Teaching Levels. More information on Phonics First can be found by visiting: <http://rlac.com/phonics-first>.

SCREENING INFORMATION

Schools are required to complete universal screenings for all students in Kindergarten through grade 2 for indicators of dyslexia, as well as selective screening in grades 3 through 12. Examples of these screenings includes the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), DSA (Developmental Spelling Analysis, DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment), I-Station, and AR-RAN (Arkansas Rapid Automatized Naming Screener).

More information on the procedures for screening is found in the Dyslexia Resource Guide, available at:

http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/Learning_Services/Dyslexia/DRG-Final-12-13-17-JS1.pdf

GRADE	# OF STUDENTS SCREENED	# OF STUDENTS SHOWING CHARACTERISTICS	# OF STUDENTS IN MINDPLAY FOR SHOWING CHARACTERISTICS	# OF STUDENTS IN PHONICS FIRST FOR SHOWING CHARACTERISTICS
KIND.	24	0	0	0
1 ST GRADE	23	0	0	0
2 ND GRADE	40	2	0	2
3 RD GRADE	2	1	0	1

*No students were screened for characteristics of dyslexia in grades 4 – 12.

DYSLEXIA INTERVENTIONISTS

Dyslexia Interventionists for the Hermitage School District are Brenda Nolan and Tracie Richard.

In addition, Sydney Kidwell, Sarah Richards, Amy Evans, Melinda Haire, Rhonda Ferrell, Kodie Hannegan, Lori McDougald, Vicki Rouse, and Marisa Gardner have been trained in **Phonics First**. Katrina Black and Tiffany Curtis will be trained in **Phonics First** in the summer of 2018.

Additionally, Thea Capps at the Southeast Arkansas Educational Service Cooperative, of which the Hermitage School District is a member, serves as the regional specialist.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Need more information??? Visit the ADE information page for dyslexia:

<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/dyslexia>

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