

Dierks School District

Informational Brochure for Dyslexia Services

What is dyslexia?

“Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.” Adopted by the IDA, International Dyslexia Association

Characteristics of Dyslexia:

- Difficulty learning to read
- Difficulty identifying or generating rhyming words, or counting syllables in words (phonological awareness)
- Difficulty remembering names and shapes of letters, or naming letters rapidly
- Many spelling mistakes
- Slow, laborious oral reading

Identification Process

All K-2 students are screened with multiple assessments to determine if a child is at risk for reading failure and exhibits the characteristics of dyslexia. Screeners include *Dibels*, *DRA* (Developmental Reading Assessment), *Istation* and *DSA* (Developmental Spelling Analysis), and *RAN* (Rapid Automatic Naming)

If a student is in grade 3 or higher and exhibits difficulty, the student will be screened using the same screeners.

A Level II dyslexia screening is a more detailed process for identifying characteristics of dyslexia. Dierks School will utilize *Apple Group Dyslexia Screener*.

Parents

If a student’s performance on a dyslexia screener indicates a need for services, the parents or legal guardian shall be notified and provided with information and resource material.

School Services

- Dierks K-2 core reading instruction utilizes *Phonics First* to provide effective instruction.

