

# What is Dyslexia?

## **The current definition from the International Dyslexia Association states:**

Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological 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.



## **Dyslexia and School District / Charter School Requirements**

### **Texas Education Code 38.003**

- Students enrolling in public schools shall be tested for dyslexia at appropriate times.
- The board of trustees of each school district or charter school shall provide for the treatment (i.e., instruction) of any student determined to have dyslexia.

### **Texas Administrative Code 74.28**

- The board of trustees of a school district or charter school must ensure that procedures for identifying a student with dyslexia and for providing appropriate instructional services to the student are implemented.
- A school district or charter school shall purchase or develop its own reading program for students with dyslexia, as long as the program is characterized by the descriptors found in *The State Dyslexia Handbook ~ Revised 2021*.
- Information on eligibility, evaluation request, and services available under IDEA and the Rehabilitation Act, Section 504, and information on the response to intervention process can be found on SFA Charter School's website.
- Each school district or charter school must provide each identified student access at his or her campus to the services of a teacher trained in dyslexia and related disorders.

- Each school district or charter school shall provide a parent education program for parents/guardians of students with dyslexia.



## **Teacher Training Requirements**

### **Teachers who provide instruction for students with dyslexia:**

- Must have a valid Texas teaching certificate for particular grade level(s) that they teach.
- Must be trained in dyslexia and related disorders
- Must be trained in the program the district has developed or purchased for use with students with dyslexia as well as in instructional strategies that utilize individualized, intensive, multisensory, phonetic methods.
- Each school district or charter must provide designated supports if needed. Designated supports are accommodations, that change the way a student accesses an assessment, without changing the content being assessed.



# Common Signs of Dyslexia

## Kindergarten - Third grade:

- Failure to understand that words are made up of parts or individual sounds
- Difficulty learning the letter names and their corresponding sounds
- Difficulty reading single words in isolation
- Choppy and labored reading
- Difficulty spelling phonetically



## Fourth Grade - High School:

- History of reading and spelling difficulties
- Avoids reading aloud
- Reads most materials slowly; oral reading is labored, not fluent
- Avoids reading for pleasure
- Difficulty with spelling

# Contacts for further information:

## State Dyslexia Consultant

Region 10 Education Service Center  
400 E. Spring Valley Road  
Richardson, TX 75083-1300  
Texas Dyslexia Hotline: 1 (800) 232-3030

## Texas Regional Education Service Centers

[www.tea.state.tx.us/regional\\_services/esc/](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/regional_services/esc/)

## SFA Charter School

Angelique Beckwith, *Dyslexia Therapist*  
abeckwith@sfasu.edu  
(936) 468-5899  
<https://www.sfasu.edu/charterschool>

***The State Dyslexia Handbook ~ Updated 2021,***  
**will be available to download at the following**  
**address: <http://tea.texas.gov/>**

## Parent Resources:

### International Dyslexia Association

<http://www.interdys.org>

### Academic Language Therapy Association

<http://www.altaread.org>

### Learning Ally

[www.learningally.org/state-landing-pages/texas/](http://www.learningally.org/state-landing-pages/texas/)

### Talking Books Program

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html>

# Dyslexia Program Awareness for Educators and Parents

## INFORMATION FOR EDUCATORS AND PARENTS ABOUT DYSLEXIA IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

- What is dyslexia?
- What are the school district requirements related to dyslexia?
- Who can I contact if I have questions or concerns?

