

An Update on Dyslexia Supports for Ohio's Children
Buckeye Community Hope Foundation Accountability and School Improvement Team
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In early January of 2021, Governor Mike DeWine signed a set of laws to strengthen supports for students with dyslexia. The laws prescribe the following: 1) Screening protocols and procedures, 2) professional development requirements and 3) Instructional practices for students with dyslexia. (Ohio Department of Education, 2021)

Additionally, the legislation requires the Ohio Department of Education to establish the Ohio Dyslexia Committee. The eleven member committee is mandated to complete a Guidebook by December 31, 2021. The Guidebook will outline best practices and methods for universal screening, intervention and remediation for students with dyslexia or displaying dyslexic characteristics. The guidebook will also provide professional development requirements for professionals providing literacy instruction under the new laws.

A Detailed look at the Dyslexia Guidebook:

The Ohio Dyslexia Committee will communicate the following through the completed guidebook:

- Determine evidenced-based screening and intervention measures to evaluate kindergarten through fifth grade literacy skills using Structured Literacy.
- Determine qualifications for teachers of dyslexia
- Determine student-teacher ratios
- Determine practicum requirements

The guidebook will develop reporting mechanisms to submit required data to the Committee. Develop academic standards for kindergarten in reading and writing that incorporate a Structured Literacy program and assist in the development of multidisciplinary teams that will assist in the identification, intervention and remediation for student with dyslexia or displaying the characteristics of dyslexia. (Ohio Department of Education, 2021)

Through the guidebook, the committee will also define professional development requirements for teacher qualification and certification of teachers of dyslexia. In collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education, the committee will identify and publish a list of approved courses that meet professional training requirements. Although the list is not complete or approved, speculation is that the course offerings may consist of online or classroom learning modules. The number of professional development hours is still being determined, however, sources indicate that it could be up to eighteen hours. Professional development courses that meet the committee's requirements will be approved even if those courses were completed prior to the completion of the Guidebook, but taken prior to the completion of the Guidebook would be approved.

Timelines for Schools:

By the start of the 2022-23 school year, dyslexia screening must be implemented. Each school must determine screening and intervention measures that will be used in accordance with the Guidebook. Additionally, each school must identify a multidisciplinary team that will implement screening, intervention and conduct data analysis of results. Members of the team must be trained and certified with at least one member having expertise in dyslexia. Schools are mandated to report results of screenings to the Ohio Department of Education. (International Dyslexia Association of Central Ohio, 2021)

Timeline by School Year:

School Year 2022-2023

- District shall establish a Structured Literacy certification process for teachers providing instruction for students in **grades K-3** as detailed in the Ohio Dyslexia Guidebook.

School Year 2023-2024

- Teachers in grades K&1, including special education providers, must complete approved PD courses as detailed in the Ohio Dyslexia Guidebook.

School Year 2024-2025

- Teachers in **grades 2&3**, including special education providers, must complete approved PD courses as detailed in the Ohio Dyslexia Guidebook.

School Year 2025-2026

- Grade 4-12 special education providers must complete approved PD courses as detailed in the Ohio Dyslexia Guidebook.

(International Dyslexia Association of Central Ohio, 2021)

The BCHF Accountability and School Improvement Team will be hosting Dyslexia Update Sessions throughout the year as well as providing continued updates through the Sponsor Newsletter and email blasts. Please feel free to contact Jerry Nadeau at jnadeau@buckeyehope.org or any member of our team with questions or concerns regarding the Dyslexia legislation.

References and Resources

- Ohio Department of Education: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Literacy/Dyslexia/Dyslexia-Committee>
- International Dyslexia Association of Central Ohio: <https://coh.dyslexiaida.org/>
- Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity: <https://dyslexia.yale.edu/>