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2 Councilmember Jack Evans

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4 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

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7 Councilmember Anita Bonds

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Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

Councilmember Charles Allen

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To establish a dyslexia screening and intervention pilot program for early elementary grades, to require the State Superintendent of Education to develop, adopt, and provide for the implementation of the pilot program, to require universal screening of students in prekindergarten through third grade for characteristics of dyslexia, reading disabilities and related disorders.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Dyslexia and Other Reading Disabilities Screening and Prevention Pilot Program Act of 2019".

Sec. 2. The State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000, effective October 21, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-176; D.C. Official Code § 38-2601 *et seq.*), is amended by adding a new section 7g to read as follows:

"Sec. 7g. Dyslexia screening, treatment, and prevention pilot program.

"(a)(1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, OSSE shall establish a dyslexia screening, treatment, and prevention pilot program ("pilot program"), which shall be implemented and administered by OSSE

"(2)(A) If funding is not available for the 2020-2021 school year, OSSE, in consultation with the State Board of Education, shall establish, implement, and administer the pilot program in the first fiscal year that funds are appropriated for this purpose.

1 “(B) In addition to appropriated funds, participating schools may seek and accept
2 gifts, grants, and donations from any available source.

3 “(b) The pilot program shall include:

4 “(1) An annual universal screening for students in prekindergarten through third
5 grade for characteristics of dyslexia, reading disabilities and related disorders; provided, that no
6 child shall be screened if the child’s parent or guardian objects to the screening.

7 “(2) Periodic progress monitoring of every student identified with characteristics
8 of dyslexia or a related disorder to assess progress toward established educational goals.

9 “(3) Implementation of appropriate remediation or intervention strategies, which
10 to the maximum extent possible, shall utilize a multi-tiered model structured to provide research-
11 based instruction in a general education setting to address any academic need or deficiency
12 identified through the screening process or periodic progress monitoring.

13 “(4) Training and professional development to provide teachers with the
14 knowledge and skills necessary to implement specialized, multi-tiered remediation and
15 intervention strategies.

16 “(c) OSSE shall invite every DCPS elementary school to submit a proposal to participate
17 in the pilot program. OSSE shall evaluate each proposal and make recommendations to the State
18 Board of Education for its approval of the maximum number of schools that can participate in
19 the pilot program based on the available funding.

20 “(d) Each elementary school in the pilot program shall arrange for an external
21 performance evaluation to be conducted at the conclusion of the first full academic year of its
22 participation in the pilot program to assess the effectiveness of the pilot program in the early
23 identification of students with characteristics of dyslexia and related disorders and in meeting the
24 educational and developmental needs of these students.

1 “(e) Based upon an analysis of the periodic progress monitoring reports and the final
2 external performance evaluation conducted in each participating school, OSSE, after review and
3 approval by the State Board of Education, shall submit the following reports to the Mayor, the
4 Chancellor, and the District of Columbia Council Committee on Education:

5 “(1) Not later than August 1, 2020, or, if funds are not available to implement the
6 pilot program for the 2020-2021 school year, August 1 following the first school year in which
7 the pilot program was implemented, an interim report on the progress made by each
8 participating school in implementing the pilot program.

9 “(2) Not later than March 1, 2022, or, if funds are not available to implement the
10 pilot program for the 2020-2021 school year, March 1 following the first school year in which
11 the pilot program was implemented, a comprehensive final report, which shall include a
12 determination of whether the program should be implemented on a Districtwide basis.

13 “(f) Upon funding, OSSE shall issue regulations to implement this section.”.

14 Sec. 3. Section 403(a) of the State Board of Education Establishment Act of 2007,
15 effective June 12, 2007 (D.C. Law 17-9; D.C. Official Code 38-2652(a)), is amended by adding
16 a new paragraph (4A) to read as follows:

17 “(4A) Approve participants to the dyslexia screening, treatment, and prevention pilot
18 program in accordance with the Dyslexia Screening and Prevention Pilot Program Act of 2019,
19 as introduced on January 3, 2019 (Bill 23-___).”.

20 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

21 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
22 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
23 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

24 Sec. 5. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
2 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as
3 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
4 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
5 Columbia Register.