

# Dyslexia Law Requirements for Districts and Schools

This document outlines all the specific requirements for each local, city and exempted village school district, community schools, and STEM schools regarding the dyslexia support laws starting in the 2022-2023 school year.

The Ohio Dyslexia Committee ([ORC 3323.25\(C\)\(1\)](#)) was charged to develop a guidebook that can be useful in providing additional information to support teachers and administrators as they work to implement Ohio's dyslexia support laws. The guidebook includes:

- Best practices
- Methods for universal screening, intervention and remediation for children with dyslexia or children displaying dyslexic characteristics and tendencies using a multi-sensory structured literacy program.

## Screening (ORC 3323.251)

### **2022-2023 School Year:**

- Under [ORC 3323.251](#), districts and schools must choose from a list of approved universal screeners (list is forthcoming).
- Districts and schools must administer a universal (tier 1)<sup>1</sup> screener to:
  - All students in grades K-3.
    - A universal screener must be administered to students enrolled in kindergarten after January 1, 2023, but prior to January 1, 2024.
  - Students in grades 4-6 if requested by a parent or teacher (with parental consent).
- Establish a multidisciplinary team to administer screening and intervention measures and analyze the results of the measures. The team shall include trained and certified personnel and a stakeholder with expertise in the identification, intervention, and remediation of dyslexia.
- For students identified as at risk from the tier 1 screener, the district or school must notify the student's parent that the student has been identified as being at risk.
  - Monitor the progress of each at-risk student toward attaining grade-level reading and writing skills for up to six weeks.<sup>2</sup>
    - Progress should be monitored on at least the second, fourth and sixth week.
  - If no progress is observed during the monitoring period, the district or school shall notify the parent of the student and administer a tier two dyslexia screening measure to the student.
  - Report to a student's parent the student's results on a tier two screening measure approved by the Ohio dyslexia committee within thirty days after the measure's administration.
  - If, as determined by the tier two screening measure, the student is identified as having dyslexia tendencies, the student's parent shall be provided with information about reading development, the risk factors for dyslexia, and descriptions for evidenced-based interventions.

<sup>1</sup> In this document, universal screeners will be referred to as "Tier 1" screeners as described in [.ORC 3323.251](#)

<sup>2</sup> A district or school is not required to monitor the progress of each at-risk student or, if no progress is observed, notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student if the district or school instead decides to administer a tier two screening measure to a student to whom the district or school administered a tier one measure.

- If a student demonstrates markers for dyslexia, provide the student's parents with a written explanation of the district or school's multi-sensory structured literacy program.
- Report to the Department the results of tier 1 and tier 2 screening measures.
- Transfer Students:
  - *Kindergarten*: Administer a tier one dyslexia screening measure to each kindergarten student who transfers into the district or school midyear during the school's regularly scheduled screening of the kindergarten class or within 30 days after the student's enrollment if the screening already has been completed.
  - *Grades 1-6*: Screen each student in grades 1-6 who transfers into the district or school midyear within 30 days after the student's enrollment.
  - *At-Risk Transfer Students*: In the case of a transfer student who is already identified as at risk of dyslexia, a tier two dyslexia screening must be administered "in a timely manner."

#### 2023-2024 School year and Thereafter:

- Under [ORC 3323.251](#), districts or schools must choose from a list of approved universal screeners (list is forthcoming).
- Districts or schools must administer a universal (tier 1) screener to:
  - All kindergarten students after January 1 of the school year the student is enrolled in kindergarten and before January 1 of the following school year.
  - Students in grades 1-6 if requested by a parent or teacher (with parental consent).
- For students identified as at risk from the tier 1 screener, the district or school must notify the student's parent that the student has been identified as being at risk.
  - Monitor the progress of each at-risk student toward attaining grade-level reading and writing skills for up to six weeks.<sup>3</sup>
    - Progress should be monitored on at least the second, fourth and sixth week.
  - If no progress is observed during the monitoring period, the district or school shall notify the parent of the student and administer a tier two dyslexia screening measure to the student.
  - Report to a student's parent the student's results on a tier two screening measure approved by the Ohio dyslexia committee within thirty days after the measure's administration.
  - If, as determined by the tier two screening measure, the student is identified as having dyslexia tendencies, the student's parent shall be provided with information about reading development, the risk factors for dyslexia, and descriptions for evidenced-based interventions.
  - If a student demonstrates markers for dyslexia, provide the student's parents with a written explanation of the district or school's multi-sensory structured literacy program.
- Report to the Department the results of tier 1 and tier 2 screening measures.
- Transfer Students:
  - *Kindergarten*: Administer a tier one dyslexia screening measure to each kindergarten student who transfers into the district or school midyear during the school's regularly scheduled screening of the kindergarten class or within 30 days after the student's enrollment if the screening already has been completed.
  - *Grades 1-6*: Screen each student in grades 1-6 who transfers into the district or school midyear within 30 days after the student's enrollment.

<sup>3</sup> A district or school is not required to monitor the progress of each at-risk student or, if no progress is observed, notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student if the district or school instead decides to administer a tier two screening measure to a student to whom the district or school administered a tier one measure.

- *At-Risk Transfer Students:* In the case of a transfer student who is already identified as at risk of dyslexia, a tier two dyslexia screening must be administered “in a timely manner.”

### Professional Development (ORC 3319.077)

As required by [Ohio law](#), the Ohio Dyslexia Committee has determined that teachers must complete 18 instructional hours of professional development. The Department, in collaboration with the committee, has established a [list of approved professional development courses from which educators must select](#). The Department will also be creating a free, online course that can be used to meet the professional development requirements. Details about Department’s forthcoming professional development course’s components are provided on the [Department website](#).

Teachers must complete the required professional development not later than the beginning of the designated school year in accordance with the following timeline:

- By the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year: Teachers of grades K-1, including special education teachers
- By the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year: Teachers of grades 2-3, including special education teachers
- By the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year: Special education teachers of students in grades 4-12

*Note: Any professional development course included on the list of approved courses completed by a teacher prior to April 12, 2021 will count toward fulfilling this requirement.*

### Multi-Sensory Structured Literacy Certification Process (ORC 3319.078)

Starting in the 2022-2023 year, each local, city and exempted village school district, community school, and STEM school must establish a [multi-sensory structured literacy certification process](#) for teachers providing instruction to students in grades K-3.