



Parent Resources for Students Identified as “At Risk” for Dyslexia

A parent can always request a Full Individualized Evaluation (FIE) because they suspect their child has dyslexia, which is named as a Specific Learning Disability in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

A few excerpts from the Texas Dyslexia Handbook

In Texas, evaluation for dyslexia is conducted from kindergarten through grade 12. (p “X”)

Inexpensive screening measures identify at-risk children in mid-kindergarten with 85 percent accuracy. (p 7)

While educators once delayed identification of reading difficulties until the middle elementary grades, recent research has encouraged the identification of children at risk for dyslexia and reading difficulties “prior to, or at the very least, the beginning of formal reading instruction” (Catts, 2017). (p 11)

“Parents/guardians have the right to request a referral for a dyslexia evaluation under IDEA or Section 504 at any time.” (p 16)

While schools must follow federal and state guidelines, they must also develop local procedures that address the needs of their student populations. Schools must recommend evaluation for dyslexia if the student demonstrates the following:

- Poor performance in one or more areas of reading and spelling that is unexpected for the student’s age/grade
- Characteristics and risk factors of dyslexia indicated in Chapter I: Definitions & Characteristics of Dyslexia (p 25)

Does the student have to be in a certain grade level before dyslexia evaluation can occur?
No. (p 79)



Resources to understand the process and advocate for your child

Decoding Dyslexia Parent Information about Dyslexia Screening
<https://www.facebook.com/download/preview/156276211877607>

The Texas Dyslexia Handbook
<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/dyslexia/>

“How to Request an Initial Evaluation” including sample parent letter by Disability Rights Texas
<https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/publication/how-to-request-an-initial-evaluation-for-special-education-eligibility/>

Understanding IDEA - the Individuals with Disabilities Act
<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/special-services/special-education-basics/conditions-covered-under-idea>