



The Beckley Wilson Act

8 Changes Coming to Dyslexia Education Next Year!

Expertise of dyslexia therapists in evaluation & instruction merges with unique rights of IDEA (special education services)

1

New dyslexia law added to Texas' special education law

Reinforces that dyslexia alone is served by special education services (not just 504). Students & families have access to the unique educational rights of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, known as special education services). Schools must offer evaluation for dyslexia via IDEA & include all areas of suspected disability (vs limited, dyslexia-only evaluations under 504). Parents get progress reports on intervention each grading period!

2

Parents get the facts on IDEA vs 504

Districts must provide a TEA-created form to parents to ensure they understand the rights they would be giving up if they choose to evaluate or be served under 504 instead of via IDEA. All 504 rights are included in IDEA plans.

3

Dyslexia = Specific Learning Disability

If a student is identified with dyslexia as outlined in the Texas Dyslexia Handbook, the student meets the first prong of eligibility under IDEA (identification of disability).^{*} Difficulties and unexpectedly low performance in reading, decoding, fluency & spelling create a *pattern of evidence* to identify dyslexia (vs a *pattern of strengths & weaknesses* commonly used to identify SLD). Dyslexia alone is a qualifying condition and can be listed in the IEP as such.

4

Need for Intervention = Need for Special Education

A need for direct dyslexia instruction meets IDEA's second prong of eligibility (need for special education services). No distinctions allowed re: types of direct dyslexia instruction (standard protocol vs specially designed). Dyslexia intervention previously provided by dyslexia therapist via 504 should be provided in same manner, but under the umbrella of special education services. Viewing 504 as "Least Restrictive Environment" for pull-out intervention is incorrect.

5

Dyslexia professionals on IDEA evaluation team

The IDEA multidisciplinary evaluation team must include a highly trained member with specific knowledge about the reading process, dyslexia and related disorders, and dyslexia instruction. This person's signature is required to ensure dyslexia professionals are not excluded from new district evaluation practices under IDEA.

6

Dyslexia Intervention + Dyslexia Professional

Dyslexia professionals, whether certified for special education or not, must be fully trained in a district's dyslexia program(s), which must include *all* of the Handbook's 8 critical components of instruction & 6 principles of effective intervention. These professionals can provide services on an IEP and must be available at each campus. Completion of TX Reading Academy is not sufficient training. General reading intervention by a classroom teacher is not sufficient.

7

Safeguards for at-risk kids who may be dyslexic

When students are placed in an alternative location for disciplinary reasons, or returning to their campus from such a location, districts must provide parents with information about how to request a Full Individual Evaluation (FIE). Ensures possible undiagnosed learning disabilities are considered at critical times.

8

Increase parent voice & school board responsibility

Requires TEA to solicit input from parents and students as part of the state's cyclical monitoring of district dyslexia services. Requires school boards to create a policy requiring compliance with the Texas Dyslexia Handbook & subsequent TEA guidance.

^{*} Per the September 2021 update to 19 TAC 89.1040, the identification of dyslexia (or any Specific Learning Disability) **does NOT require a significant variance among specific areas of cognitive function or between specific areas of cognitive function and academic achievement.**

This update was made to align the TAC's Specific Learning Disability eligibility language with IDEA.

This bill does not require all students with dyslexia on 504 plans to be re-evaluated, but parents may always request a Full Individual Evaluation (FIE) via IDEA in writing. Schools have 15 days to respond.

Questions? TexasDyslexia@gmail.com