

Alabama Dyslexia Resource Guide

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a common condition that affects the way the brain processes language. Dyslexia makes it difficult for learners to read and spell, but is not a sign of low intelligence. The Alabama State Department of Education (2015) defines dyslexia as a “learning challenge that is neurological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the delivery of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.”

What are the changes related to dyslexia?

The Alabama State Board of Education Dyslexia Resolution was approved April 8, 2015. The Dyslexia Resolution defined dyslexia, recognized the educational implications, called for the creation of a Dyslexia Advisory Council, and called for revision of the Alabama Administrative Code to address dyslexia and subsequent services needed to ensure the success of learners with dyslexia.

How is the Pike Road school system responding to these changes?

We are committed to continual professional learning that will prepare our lead learners and leaders to effectively support learners identified as exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia. Below are some of the changes already in place related to dyslexia:

- All lead learners are trained to administer the **dyslexia-specific screening assessment**
- Our Response to Instruction (RTI) guidelines were revised to include dyslexia specific information.

How do you know if a learner is exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia?

If a learner scores below benchmark on their school’s reading screening, a dyslexia specific screening assessment will be administered. Parents may also request a dyslexia specific screening if they have concerns. School employees cannot diagnose dyslexia, but can screen for dyslexia using instruments included in the *Alabama Dyslexia Resource Guide*.

What if a learner has a diagnosis of dyslexia or fails the dyslexia specific screening?

If a learner is identified as exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia on the dyslexia-specific screening assessment or has a diagnosis of dyslexia, he or she will be reviewed to determine if there is a need for intensive intervention. If intervention is recommended, your child's progress in responding to intervention will be monitored and communicated to parents by the school's Response to Instruction (RTI) Team as part of the RTI process. Follow this link to learn more about the Pike Road Schools RTI process regarding dyslexia. [\[PST Guidelines Regarding Dyslexia - Grades 1st - 12th\]](#)

What classroom strategies or accommodations can be implemented to support learners exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia?

The Alabama Dyslexia Resource Guide includes an entire section about classroom accommodations and strategies. A small sampling is listed below. These accommodations are critical to learner success.

Assistive technology	Use cues to denote important items
Clarify or simplify directions	Display work samples
Highlight essential information	Peer learning
Develop reading guides	Flexible work times
Provide a copy of lecture notes	Provide additional practice
Use step by step instructions	Adjust or substitute assignments
Use of graphic organizers	

What intervention resources are available to support learners exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia?

Lead learners are trained to administer the dyslexia-specific screening assessment. We also have lead learners trained to implement a variety of dyslexia specific interventions. Our district will have professional develop about dyslexia specific interventions throughout the school year.

Resources

Teacher Specific Resources	Parent & Teacher Resources
<u>Alabama Dyslexia Resource Guide</u>	<u>Alabama Dyslexia Resource Guide</u>
<u>RTI Guidelines Regarding Dyslexia - Kindergarten</u>	<u>Dyslexia Quick Reference</u>
<u>RTI Guidelines Regarding Dyslexia - Grades 1st - 12th</u>	<u>Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity</u>
<u>Orton-Gillingham</u>	<u>KidsHealth</u>
<u>SPIRE</u>	<u>Colorado Literacy & Learning</u>
<u>MindPlay</u>	<u>Decoding Dyslexia Alabama</u>
	<u>International Dyslexia Association</u>
	<u>Dyslexia Simulation</u>
	<u>Headstrong Nation</u>
	<u>Talking to your child - Yale.edu</u>
	Video - <u>What is Dyslexia?</u>
	Video - <u>Big Picture Movie Trailer</u>