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## SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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June 5, 2018

Action Required

Due date:

Informational

BULLETIN NO. 046-18 LEARNING AND TEACHING/SPECIAL EDUCATION

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
Educational Service District Assistant Superintendents  
School District Business Managers  
School District Learning and Teaching Directors  
School District Special Education Directors

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Early Screening of Dyslexia (E2SSB 6162)

CONTACT: Aira Jackson, Director of English Language Arts and Literacy  
360-725-6228, [aira.jackson@k12.wa.us](mailto:aira.jackson@k12.wa.us)

### **PURPOSE/ BACKGROUND**

Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 6162 (E2SSB 6162), passed in 2018 by the Washington State Legislature, defines dyslexia as a specific learning disability and requires early screening. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide an overview of the E2SSB 6162 statute. These requirements impact all students K–2.

### **WHAT IS DYSLEXIA?**

Dyslexia has been defined in [statute](#) as a specific learning disorder that is neurological in origin and characterized by:

- Unexpected difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition, and
- Poor spelling and decoding abilities that are not consistent with the person's intelligence, motivation, and sensory capabilities.

These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological components of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities.

### **EXPECTATIONS FOR 2018–19 SCHOOL YEAR**

School districts currently screening for indicators or areas of weakness associated with dyslexia must report the number of students and grade levels of the students screened, disaggregated by student groups in the assessment inventory in the Spring/Summer of 2019. Each school district must aggregate the school reports and submit the aggregated report to OSPI.

### **THE DYSLEXIA ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Dyslexia Advisory Council will convene for the first time in the fall of 2018. The council will be comprised of individuals from across the state and chosen through an application process that will commence June 4, 2018 and close on July 12, 2018. Notification of appointment to the council will be done by August 10, 2018. The application will be made available on the OSPI website and be disseminated through official agency communication to educator, parent/guardian, and stakeholder groups.

### **TIMELINE OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR NEW SCREENING TOOLS AND MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT\***

September 2018	The Dyslexia Advisory Council will hold its initial convening and will meet 2–3 times in person over the course of the 2018–19 school year and through online platforms as needed.
September 2018– June 2019	The council will identify the literacy skills, tool, and resources “that indicate typical literacy development or dyslexia” as required by the statute.
September 2019	OSPI will post on its website the skills, recommended screening tools, and assessment resources identified by the council.

\* Additional implementation details can be reviewed [here](#).

### **FUNDING FOR DYSLEXIA SCREENINGS**

Learning Assistance Program and federal and state special education funds can be used on an individual student basis for the screening of dyslexia, in certain circumstances. Please check with district LAP and Special Education program managers prior to usage for additional information.

### **INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Aira Jackson, Director of English Language Arts and Literacy, at 360-725-6064 or email [aira.jackson@k12.wa.us](mailto:aira.jackson@k12.wa.us). The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website at <http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2018.aspx>.

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