

Dyslexia Advisory Council

Update from March 26, 2021

On Friday, March 26, 2021 the Dyslexia Advisory Council convened via digital platform to discuss the following topics ([see agenda](#)):

- Family History
- Decision Tree
- Recommended Best Practices Guidance:
 - Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
 - Multilingual/English Learners
 - Supporting Students 3rd Grade Above

Council Background

Expectations of Council Members:

Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill [6162](#) requires that Washington maintains an advisory council for the purposes of providing policy guidance with respect to early screening of dyslexia and related services for students with dyslexia. Such an advisory panel shall consist of members appointed by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI); and be comprised of individuals involved with issues surrounding dyslexia.

Expectations of Statute:

Starting in 2021-2022

- Students in grades K-2 will be screened for indications of or areas of weakness associated with dyslexia
- School districts will use a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) in grades K-2
- School districts will communicate and collaborate with parents and families about student reading progress, screening results, and potential literacy interventions



Family History

Council members reviewed and approved the resource *Family Educational History: A Conversation* developed to meet the statute expectations. Council members provided feedback on how to strengthen the document and ensure it:

- Increases Collaboration between school and families/caregivers;
- Focuses on the strengths of students and families/caregivers; and
- Highlights information that schools and districts need to understand potential inheritability of dyslexia.

Family Educational History: A Conversation will be released in late April 2021.

Decision Tree

Council members reviewed and improved the partner-requested resource and provided suggestions to strengthen its usage and flexibility to meet the diverse needs of Washington school districts. The resource will provide schools, districts, and their staff with **guidance, ideas, and support** as they implement the Early Screening of Dyslexia statute.

The resource is **not** a checklist of steps; it is **not** an absolute process or a comprehensive resource. **The Early Screening of Dyslexia statute, resources, and guidance including this document do not supplant Child Find and IDEA.**

Decision Tree: Suggested Guidance will be released in late April 2021.

Recommended Best Practice Guidance

Council members had the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the guidance developed in Spring 2020 and approved by Superintendent Reykdal in Summer 2020. The *Best Practice Guidance for Multi-Tiered Systems of Support* and *Supporting Students—Grade 3 & Above* are statute expectations. The *Best Practice Guidance for Multilingual/English Learners* is a partner request.

Over the coming weeks, the work group leads will incorporate the feedback from the council members into their respective guidance. The Best Practice Guidance will be released in April/May 2021.

Professional Learning Opportunities

Council members and OSPI staff had an impromptu conversation about the current professional learning opportunity [Understanding and Recognizing Dyslexia Course](#) offered by OSPI and Glean Education. Currently over 1500 educators have enrolled in the online asynchronous course; the course closes on May 31, 2021. There was discussion about next steps for professional learning and what will be offered in late summer and early fall by OSPI and Regional Literacy Coordinators.