



REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

## **UPDATE: Dyslexia Report**

**2014-15**

**Authorizing legislation:** RCW 28A.300.530

(<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.300.530>)

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## Executive Summary

It is estimated that 10 to 20 percent of the United States population has dyslexia; therefore 100,000 to 200,000 WA students could be identified with the language-based learning disability that affects a person's language skills: reading, writing, spelling and pronouncing words. Students who receive appropriate interventions make steady and quantifiable academic gains in literacy, therefore enabling them to access core coursework in all content areas and prepare for college, career and life.

During 2005-2010, OSPI received funding from the Legislature to work closely with school districts, ESDs, and the Washington Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (WABIDA) to develop resources for families and educators focused on the identification and support of students with dyslexia. During this time, the Washington Dyslexia Resource Guide was created (updated in 2011) and professional learning resources became widely available at OSPI and the Educational Service Districts. The original state appropriation to support SSB 6016 was \$145,000 per year. The 2010 final supplemental budget, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6444, allocated \$75,000 to support the continuation of SSB 6016 during the 2010–11 year; however, these funds were reduced to \$37,000 in the December 2010 Supplemental Budget. There have been no funds designated by the state to support professional development for educational staff serving students with dyslexia since that time.

During the 2014-15 academic year, the Regional Literacy Cadre representing the nine Educational Services Districts of Washington did not have any participants or requests for dyslexia workshops.

## Background

Substitute Senate Bill 6016 (SSB 6016) from the 2009 legislative session directed OSPI to work with the state's nine regional Educational Service Districts (ESDs) to provide training on the topic of dyslexia and to develop a state dyslexia resource guide.

From 2005 through 2009, the Legislature provided funding \$1,26 million for grants to help schools implement research-based intervention for students with dyslexia. Participating schools were required to have a three-tiered structure for reading instruction in place, provide professional development training to teachers, assess students, and collect and maintain data on student progress in reading and spelling.

Students receiving support through the dyslexia pilot projects made substantial and steady academic gains in reading and spelling. The Legislature sustained this work and expanded statewide support to teachers by providing resources for developing and delivering information and training, including a resource guide to improve the skills of students with dyslexia.

## Update Status

In the fall of 2015, the Regional Literacy Cadre (RLC) representing each of the nine ESDs reported the following summary of their activities associated with dyslexia support:

- During the 2014-15 school year, the RLC members from the nine regional ESDs did not receive any requests for professional development workshops on dyslexia. Cadre members and OSPI staff attended events sponsored by WABIDA including their annual conference.
- Although districts have not requested specific workshops on the topic of dyslexia, many ESDs provide technical assistance (phone calls and email correspondence) to their school districts on the subject of dyslexia. The Washington State Dyslexia Resource Guide and other professional learning resources developed through the initial funding for this project are available on the OSPI website.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

OSPI and the RLC will continue to review and refine the appropriate resources on this topic as questions arise. Most often, this includes guidance to access WABIDA resources for dyslexia and OSPI's Special Education department for questions or concerns that arise from parents about student identification and placement.

Over the 2015-16 school year, OSPI will take the lead on the following next steps:

- Update the Dyslexia Resource Guide with WABIDA (<http://www.k12.wa.us/Reading/pubdocs/DyslexiaResourceGuide.pdf>)
- Provide new members of the RLC professional development on dyslexia to enhance their personal knowledge; therefor supporting their regional districts, schools and educators
- Update the Comprehensive Literacy Plan with relevant information on dyslexia

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