



Dyslexia Screening & Intervention Guidance

This guidance document assists with the interpretation of [NDCC 15.1-32-26](#).

During the 2023 North Dakota Legislative Session, the ND legislature passed an act to ensure that all school districts have processes in place to identify and provide supports for students with dyslexia characteristics and to provide appropriate staff with professional development related to students with dyslexia characteristics.

The law defines dyslexia (subsection 1) as a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent recognition of words and poor spelling and decoding abilities independent of the individual's general intelligence level.

Required Elements	Brief Interpretation. Each district must have and implement a plan to:
Subsection 3.a Universal Dyslexia Screener	Screen all enrolled students seven years of age and younger for dyslexia risk factors. Q: Does this include preschool? A: Yes, if the program operates as part of an elementary system and officially enrolls students, they must screen the enrolled children.
Subsection 3.b Further Diagnostics	Perform additional reading skill evaluations for those students flagged with dyslexia risk factors to determine specific instructional needs.
Subsection 3.c Intervention Pathways	Develop a process to respond to student needs by matching specific reading skill deficits to appropriate intervention supports.
Subsection 3.d Intervention Services	Provide students with the appropriate reading instruction supports as determined by screening and further diagnostics.
Subsection 3.e Ongoing Evaluation through Assessment	Administer assessments to monitor student progress related to the reading intervention services they are receiving to adjust individual or system approaches to ensure student progress.
Subsection 3.f Professional Development	Identify staff members to receive professional development as it relates to their assignment. <i>See the “Dyslexia Professional Development Guidance” document.</i>
Subsection 4 Screener upon Request	Provide a dyslexia screener when requested. Districts should be prepared to provide an appropriate screener for the student’s grade level for which the request is made.