

Robinson I.S.D. Dyslexia Program

Information for educators and parents about dyslexia in the State of Texas

- What is dyslexia?
 - What are some warning signs of dyslexia?
- What are the school districts' requirements related to dyslexia?
 - Who can I contact if I have questions or concerns?



What is Dyslexia?

The current definition from the International Dyslexia Association states:

Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is 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 provision 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.

Common Evidence of Dyslexia

According to the *State Dyslexia Handbook* (2007), the following may be associated with dyslexia if they are unexpected for the individual's age, educational level, or cognitive abilities.

Pre-school:

- May talk later than most children
- May have difficulty with rhyming
- May have difficulty pronouncing words (i.e. mawn lower for lawn mower)
- May have poor auditory memory for nursery rhymes and chants
- May be slow to add new vocabulary words

- May be unable to recall the right word
- May have trouble learning numbers, days of the week , colors, shapes, and how to spell and write his or her name

Kindergarten- Third grade:

- Failure to understand that words are made up of parts or individual sounds
- Difficulty learning the letter names and their corresponding sounds
- Difficulty reading single words in isolation
- Has difficulty spelling phonetically
- Relies on context to recognize a word

Fourth Grade- High School:

- Has a history of reading and spelling difficulties
- Avoids reading aloud
- Reads most materials slowly, oral reading is labored, not fluent
- Avoids reading for pleasure
- May have an inadequate vocabulary
- Has difficulty spelling

Dyslexia and School District Requirements

Texas Education Code §38.003:

- Students enrolling in public schools shall be tested for dyslexia at appropriate times.
- The board of trustees of each school district or charter school shall provide for the treatment (i.e., instruction) of any student determined to have dyslexia.

Texas Administrative Code §74.28:

- The board of trustees of a school district or charter school must ensure that procedures for identifying a student with dyslexia and for providing appropriate instructional services to the student are implemented.
- A school district or charter school shall purchase or develop its own reading program for students with dyslexia, as long as the program is characterized by the descriptors found in *The State Dyslexia Handbook ~ Revised 2007*.
- Each school district or charter school must provide each identified student access at his or her campus to the services of a teacher trained in dyslexia and related disorders.
- Each school district or charter school shall provide a parent education program for parents/guardians of students with dyslexia.

Teacher Training Requirements:

Teachers who provide instruction for students with dyslexia:

- Must have valid Texas teaching certificates for the particular grade level(s) that they teach
- Must be trained in dyslexia and related disorders
- Must be trained in the program the district has developed or purchased for use with students with dyslexia as well as in instructional strategies that utilize individualized, intensive, multisensory, phonetic methods.

Parent Resources:

International Dyslexia Association - <http://www.interdys.org>

LD on Line - <http://www.ldonline.com>

The State Dyslexia Handbook - www.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/elar/index.html

The Florida Center for Reading Research - <http://www.fcrr.org>

Contacts for further information:

State Dyslexia Consultant at Region 10 Education Service Center – www.region10.org/dyslexia

RISD contact: Jan Norwood

Email: jnorwood@robinson.k12.tx.us

Phone: 254.662.6113

Works Cited

International Dyslexia Association. (n.d.). Retrieved December 7, 2010, from <http://www.interdys.org/>

Texas Education Agency. (n.d.). Retrieved December 7, 2010, from www.tea.state.tx.us