

Awareness of Dyslexia, in the state of Arkansas, has led to a greater number of students being provided interventions and services at an earlier age. The overwhelmingly research has shown that the younger a child is provided strategies for Dyslexia characteristics, the greater the possibility that they will be able to achieve in the academic curriculum.

Therefore, the Arkansas School for the Blind, in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-601 et seq, has developed an equivalent screener, to the DIBELS, for students who show Dyslexia characteristics in the following areas:

- (A) Phonological and phonemic awareness
- (B) Sound-symbol recognition
- (C) Alphabet knowledge;
- (D) Decoding skills
- (E) Rapid naming skills
- (F) Encoding skills

Because our population has a unique sensory impairment, vision, it is impossible to determine if a student struggles with reading due to neurological or visual deficits. Therefore, a battery of tests have been selected, that circumvent any visual component, in order to screen, to a greater extent, for students who may have Dyslexia characteristics, and therefore might require targeted interventions that are multisensory. This battery of tests will be provided to all students who are identified as showing Dyslexia characteristics, or if the parent, along with the IEP team, determine that it is necessary for the student to be screened, by a licensed Speech Language Pathologist or another professional allowed to screen under Act 1263.

According to Act 1263, if a parent or legal guardian, “chooses to have an independent a (sic) comprehensive dyslexia evaluation for the student, the parent or legal guardian shall: (A) Select an individual qualified under subdivision (a)(2)(C) of this section to perform the comprehensive dyslexia evaluation; and (B) Cover the cost of the comprehensive dyslexia evaluation.” [6-41-604 (b)(1)]

And

“ A school district shall consider the diagnosis and provide the student with interventions determined to be appropriate by the school district from a dyslexia interventionist at the school district.”

For more information, please see the Arkansas Department of Educations “Dyslexia Resource Guide.”

[http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/Learning\\_Services/Dyslexia/DRG\\_10.1.15\\_2.pdf](http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/Learning_Services/Dyslexia/DRG_10.1.15_2.pdf)