

ACT 1039 - Dyslexia Screening and Intervention

BACKGROUND

In 2013, the Arkansas Legislature passed [ACT 1294](#) to ensure that children with the characteristics of dyslexia would have their needs met by the state's public school system.

In 2015, [ACT 1268](#) expanded this initiative by modifying the requirements concerning dyslexia screenings, and clarifying actions required by the state, educational cooperatives, and school districts.

In October of 2016, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) updated the rules governing the implementation of ACT 1268. These [updated rules](#) provided further clarification, guidance, and instruction on how to meet the needs of students showing characteristics of dyslexia.

In April of 2017, the Arkansas Legislature passed [ACT 1039](#) to further amend and clarify code provisions regarding dyslexia screenings and intervention, and to add specific enforcement provisions tied to school accreditation. It also added new public posting requirements. **The information on this page meets or exceeds all public posting requirements.**

INTERVENTION PROGRAM

All Arkansas public schools must have an **Intervention Program** in place to assist any students identified as having characteristics of dyslexia. eStem Public Charter Schools primarily uses [Connections: OG in 3D](#), a systematic, multi-sensory research-based program.

STUDENT DATA

During the 2016-2017 school year, the eStem Public Charter Schools identified a total of 21 students* showing characteristics of dyslexia. All of these students were placed in the eStem Public Charter Schools approved intervention program. Specific numbers by campus were:

eStem Elementary School = 12 students identified; 12 students served

eStem Middle School = 8 students identified; 8 students served

eStem High School = 1 students identified; 1 students served

**Note: These are composite totals for the 2016-2017 school year. Due to student transfers in and out of the district, these numbers may be slightly different from the final numbers on the state report.*

DYSLEXIA INTERVENTIONISTS

All Arkansas public schools must have trained **Dyslexia Interventionists** on staff. The Dyslexia Interventionists for the eStem Public Charter Schools are:

eStem Elementary School – Shana Killingsworth

eStem Middle School – Shana Killingsworth

eStem High School – Ashley Kemp

SCREENINGS

All Arkansas public schools are required to conduct **initial screening** in Kindergarten through 2nd grade for indicators of Dyslexia. In addition, all schools are required to screen any student in the 3rd - 12th grade who appears to be experiencing difficulty (as noted by a classroom teacher).

Screening tools used by the eStem Public Charter Schools may include **DIBELS** (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), **DSA** (Developmental Spelling Analysis), **AR-RAN** (Arkansas Rapid Automatized Naming Screener), NWEA Map Assessments, **CTOPP2** (Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing), and **WJ IV** (Woodcock-Johnson tests) as needed.

DYSLEXIA RESOURCE GUIDE

The Arkansas Department of Education has created a [Dyslexia Resource Guide](#) to provide guidance for districts, schools, and teachers as they seek to effectively meet Arkansas code provisions regarding Dyslexia screening and intervention. In addition to Dyslexia specifics, it also outlines the relationship of Dyslexia Intervention to RTI, and how this combination meets IDEA (the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). eStem Public Charter School is in full compliance with all provisions of this Guide.