

ACT 1039 - Dyslexia Screening and Intervention

BACKGROUND

In April of 2015, Governor Asa Hutchinson signed into law ACT 1268. The Dyslexia Law, as it is commonly known, was a direct response to concerns that ACT 1294 (2013) was not being properly implemented by Arkansas public school systems.

ACT 1268 was designed to ensure that the needs of all Arkansas children with dyslexia are effectively being met. It defines dyslexia, describes required screening and intervention, and lists specific required actions 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 (SB 708) to amend and clarify code provisions regarding Dyslexia screening and intervention, and to add specific enforcement provisions tied to school accreditation. ACT 1039 also added new public posting requirements. The information on this page meets or exceeds all posting requirements.

DYSLEXIA PROGRAM

ACT 1039 requires all Arkansas schools to have a Dyslexia Program in place to further evaluate students identified as having characteristics of dyslexia, and then to tutor those students who require intervention. The **Star City School District** primarily uses Take Flight. Take Flight is based on the pioneering research of Dr. Samuel T. Orton, neuropsychiatrist, and the educational and psychological insights of Anna Gillingham. We use a variety of literacy interventions to address a student's individual needs.

STUDENT DATA

During 2016-2017, the Star City School District identified 46 students showing characteristics of Dyslexia. All of these students were placed in an approved intervention program. Specific numbers by campus were:

Jimmy Brown Elementary School - 24 students identified; 24 students served

Star City Middle School - 19 students identified; 19 students served

Star City High School - 3 students identified; 3 students served

Note: These are composite totals for the year. If students leave the district, these numbers may not exactly match final numbers on state reports.

DYSLEXIA INTERVENTIONISTS

ACT 1039 requires that school districts utilize trained Dyslexia Interventionists. Dyslexia Interventionists for the Star City School District are:

Jimmy Brown Elementary - Heather Gonzalez and Kari Newton

Star City Middle School - Brooks Rowland and Myra Davis

Star City High School - Brooks Rowland and Myra Davis

In addition, Thea Capps at the Southeast Arkansas Educational Cooperative serves as the regional reading specialist for our District.

UNIVERSAL SCREENING

ACT 1268 required universal screening in Kindergarten through 2nd grade for indicators of Dyslexia, as well as selective screening in grades 3rd-12th.

In 2017-2018, the ADE will be implementing a new K-2 Assessment program that mandates an online, adaptive test at least three times per year.

However, as part of the Star City School District's comprehensive Response to Intervention (RTI) program, we will continue to administer K-2 screenings where appropriate. Examples include the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), DSA (Developmental Spelling Analysis), and AR-RAN (Arkansas Rapid Automatized Naming Screener).

DYSLEXIA RESOURCE GUIDE

In January of 2016, the Arkansas Department of Education created a [Dyslexia Resource Guide](#) to provide guidance for districts, schools, and teachers seeking to effectively meet Arkansas requirements for 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 **D**isabilities **E**ducation **A**ct).