

Georgia Department of Education DYSLEXIA UPDATE

Senate Bill 48

In 2019 the Georgia Assembly passed Senate Bill 48 (S.B. 48) into law. The bill required the State Board of Education, State Superintendent, GaDOE, and Georgia Professional Standards Commission to:

- > develop policies for referring certain elementary students for dyslexia screening,
- > create a dyslexia informational handbook to assist school districts,
- > provide professional development opportunities on dyslexia for teachers,
- > create a dyslexia endorsement for teachers, and
- > add instruction on dyslexia and response to intervention to existing standards for teacher preparation programs.



The Georgia Dyslexia Pilot Program

S.B. 48 requires local school systems to begin screening all kindergarten students and certain students in grades 1-3 for characteristics of dyslexia beginning in 2024-25. To prepare, the bill requires GaDOE to conduct a 3-year Dyslexia Pilot Program (2020-2023).

Mid-Year External Evaluation of the Pilot Implementation

- [Georgia Dyslexia Pilot Program Implementation Analysis – Year 1](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)
- www.gadoe.org/dyslexia

GaPSC Approved Dyslexia Endorsement Programs (Updated on 12/17/2021)

- [Central Savannah River Area RESA](#)
- [Griffin RESA](#)
- [Northwest Georgia RESA](#)
- [University of Georgia](#)
- [Georgia College and State University](#)
- [Metro RESA](#)
- [University of West Georgia](#)
- [Georgia State University](#)
- [Middle Georgia RESA](#)
- [Shorter University](#)
- [West Georgia RESA](#)
- [North Georgia RESA](#)
- [Thomas University](#)

The Proposed Student Support Team (SST) Rule Change

To ensure consistency with the Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students, the SST rule will be revised to include:

- > Definition and characteristics of dyslexia and related disorders
- > A list of dyslexia screening tools (An example list of dyslexia screening tools available in Appendix F of the handbook)
- > Process for referring students for screening
- > Process for obtaining parental consent for screening and providing parent resources
- > Process for monitoring students' progress after positive identification of characteristics of dyslexia

State Efforts to Support Implementation

In 2019-20, the GaDOE's efforts to support implementation of S.B. 48 included the following:

- > Established a GaDOE Dyslexia Pilot Program leadership team and contracted with a consultant to provide hands-on support for the pilot districts.
- > Created a [Dyslexia Informational Handbook](#) to guide district efforts.
- > Ensured district access to digital resources on Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students, the state's preventive framework to improve performance of all learners.
 - > Provided pilot districts with supports for reporting within the state's longitudinal data system.
- > Partnered with the Region 6 Comprehensive Center to provide informational resources.
- > Facilitated virtual and in-person communication among participating districts.
- > Provided [professional learning opportunities](#) for dyslexia and the science of reading.

