Foundational Reading Skill Development and Dyslexia: Serving All Students
**Literacy** is understanding, evaluating, using, and **engaging with written texts to participate in society**, to achieve one’s goals, and to develop one’s knowledge and potential.

**Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2016**
As of May 2019, Governor Kemp signed **Senate Bill 48** into law. SB 48 (The Dyslexia Bill) provides for identification of and support for students in Kindergarten through 3rd Grade with characteristics of dyslexia.
“Dyslexia …”

• Can be diagnosed prior to conventional reading
• Does not go away
• Is a continuum
• Affects phonological processing (e.g., matching sounds to letters)
• Can affect comprehension (e.g., meaning making)
• Can be detected early via a neurobiological exam
  • Auditory attention shifting
  • Auditory processing
  • Auditory meaning making
  • Language development delays
Dyslexia Defined

The definition of dyslexia adopted by the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) 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 the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge."

Online Resources:
- The International Dyslexia Association
- The Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity
- OSEP Dyslexia Guidance Letter
Georgia Law
“Learning Disabilities”

160-5-1-.34 GEORGIA SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
delineates which students are qualified to participate in the program

160-4-7-.14 PERSONNEL, FACILITIES AND CASELOADS
Special Education rule: Occurs as it regards class sizes and caseloads when serving students with specific learning disabilities

160-5-1-.08 CLASS SIZE
Regards class sizes when serving students with specific learning disabilities

160-4-7-.21 DEFINITIONS
Special education rule: The term occurs in the definition of a “child with a disability”
Georgia Law

Rule 160-4-7-.05 ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION AND CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBILITY

“Definition

(1) Specific learning disability is defined as a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or do mathematical calculations. The term includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia and developmental aphasia. The term does not apply to children who have learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing or motor disabilities, intellectual disabilities, emotional or behavioral disorders, environmental, cultural or economic disadvantage. [34 C.F.R. §300.8(c)(10)]”
“Dyslexia can look like and co-present with…”
Prevention First
Georgia Tiered System of Supports

Tier I: Instruction/Core Curriculum
- Language Nutrition training
- Standards-based instruction
- Differentiated instruction for students by general education teacher

Tier II: Intervention
- Student Support Team (SST) recommended interventions
- Early Intervention Program (EIP) for Reading

Tier III: Intensive Intervention
- Special Education services for Learning Disabilities per Individual Education Plan (IEP)
## Tier 1 Standards and Instruction

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<td>• Segmenting sounds (e.g., syllables, onset-rime)</td>
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<td>• Explicit code-switching</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Letter-sound relationships</td>
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<td>• Sentence structures</td>
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<td><strong>Semantics</strong></td>
<td><strong>Concept and background knowledge development</strong></td>
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<td>• Meanings as they relate to context</td>
<td>• Semantic instruction (e.g., agent-object; cause-</td>
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<td>effect, sequence)</td>
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<td><strong>Pragmatics</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Communication</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td>• Social and emotional development</td>
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</table>
EFFECTIVE READING INSTRUCTION

Instructional design of high-quality programs should include:

• explicit and systematic strategies for instruction
• consistent instructional routines
• opportunities for practice with appropriate student support materials
• cumulative review
• alignment to the Georgia Standards of Excellence for English Language Arts
• integration of the components of reading rather than isolation each skill
Credit:
Georgia’s MTSS Pyramid

Tiered Systems of Supports is to ensure that the screening process will inform quality classroom instruction, necessary interventions, and intensive interventions for individual students.
ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE SCREENER FOR READING DIFFICULTIES

1. Phonological and phonemic awareness
2. Sound-symbol recognition
3. Alphabet knowledge
4. Decoding skills
5. Rapid naming
6. Encoding skills

A screener alone cannot identify dyslexia. The use of a screener can indicate that further individualized assessment is needed.
Process and Procedures for the Identification of Dyslexia

Universal screener for reading difficulties and dyslexia

Student is at low risk for reading difficulties
  - Continue evidence-based core reading instruction
  - Ongoing monitoring to observe for reading difficulties and/or characteristics of dyslexia and related disorders

Student may be at risk for reading difficulties
  - Collect and review quantitative and qualitative data about the student
  - Analysis of screening results shows that the student exhibits reading difficulties that ARE NOT consistent with characteristics of dyslexia and related disorders
  - Begin or continue academic interventions in small group setting and progress monitor to determine growth trajectory toward goal. If progress is not evident or growth is not as expected, adjust (frequency, dosage, strength) the intervention, and continue to progress monitor.

  - Analysis of screening results and data shows the student does exhibit characteristics of dyslexia and/or related disorders
  - Intensify (frequency, dosage, strength) and individualize academic interventions and progress monitor more frequently to determine growth trajectory toward goal. Initiate SST, and if additional individualized instruction is determined to be needed, begin IDEA/Section 504 evaluation process.
Once a school identifies that a student shows characteristic of dyslexia, it is important to provide aligned interventions that include all of the following principles:

- **Explicit** – explains skills, directly teaches, and models what is expected

- **Systematic and cumulative** – introduces concepts in a definite, logical sequence; orders concepts from simple to more complex

- **Multi-sensory** – links listening, speaking, reading, and writing together; involves movement and “hands-on” learning (visual, auditory, kinesthetic, tactile).

- **Language-based** – addresses all levels of language, including sounds (phonemes), symbols (graphemes), meaningful word parts (morphemes), word and phrase meanings (semantics), and sentence formation (syntax)

- **Aligned to individual student need** – addresses the skill deficit(s) identified through targeted assessments
Structured Literacy (SL) is a promising approach for educators interested in more effective ways to teach students with dyslexia. It is characterized by providing systematic, explicit instruction that integrates listening, speaking, reading, and writing and emphasizes the structure of language across the speech sound system (phonology), the writing system (orthography), the structure of sentences (syntax), the meaningful parts of words (morphology), the relationships among words (semantics), and the organization of spoken and written discourse.
Elements of Structured Literacy

Structured Literacy's ELEMENTS work together.

- **Phonology** (study of sound structure of spoken words) is a key element of Structured Literacy Instruction. **Phonemic awareness** (ability to distinguish / segment / blend / manipulate sounds relevant to reading/spelling) is central to phonology.

- **Sound-Symbol Association** Once students develop phoneme awareness, they must learn the **alphabetic principle**—how to map phonemes to letters (graphemes) and vice versa.

- **Syllables** Knowing the six syllable / vowel grapheme types helps readers associate vowel spellings with vowel sounds. Syllable division rules help readers divide / decode unfamiliar words.

- **Morphology** A **morpheme** is the smallest unit of meaning in language. Studying base elements and affixes helps readers decode and unlock the meanings of complex words.

- **Syntax**—the set of principles that dictate the sequence and function of words in a sentence—includes grammar, sentence structure, and the mechanics of language.

- **Semantics** Semantics is concerned with meaning. The Structured Literacy curriculum (from the start) includes instruction in the comprehension and appreciation of written language.
Principles of Structured Literacy

Structured Literacy's Evidence-Based Teaching Principles

**Systematic & Cumulative**
Structured Literacy teaching is systematic and cumulative. **Systematic** means that organization of material follows the logical order of language. The sequence begins with the easiest and most basic concepts and elements and progresses methodically to the more difficult. **Cumulative** means each step is based on concepts previously learned.

**Explicit**
Structured Literacy instruction requires direct teaching of concepts with continuous student-teacher interaction and does not assume students deduce concepts. (While **multisensory teaching** lacks the extensive research that validates Structured Literacy’s other teaching principles, decades of clinical results support efficacy of simultaneous association of auditory, visual, kinesthetic-motor modalities for enhancing memory and learning in students with dyslexia.)

**Diagnostic**
Teachers must be adept at individualizing instruction (even within groups) based on careful and continuous assessment, both informal (e.g., observation) and formal (e.g., with standardized measures). Content must be mastered to the degree of automaticity needed to free attention and cognitive resources for comprehension and oral/written expression.
## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Note: GaDOE does not endorse any organization.

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<th>Professional Learning Opportunity</th>
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<td>AIM Institute for Learning and Research</td>
<td><a href="https://institute.aimpa.org/">https://institute.aimpa.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.asha.org/">https://www.asha.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Center for Effective Reading Instruction (CERI)</td>
<td><a href="https://effectivereading.org/">https://effectivereading.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox Campus</td>
<td><a href="https://www.coxcampus.org/">https://www.coxcampus.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dyslexia Resource</td>
<td><a href="https://dyslexiaresource.org/">https://dyslexiaresource.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslexia Training Institute</td>
<td><a href="https://www.dyslexiatraininginstitute.org/certification.html">https://www.dyslexiatraininginstitute.org/certification.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>edWeb</td>
<td><a href="https://home.edweb.net/">https://home.edweb.net/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute for Multi-Sensory Education</td>
<td><a href="https://www.orton-gillingham.com/">https://www.orton-gillingham.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLE)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.imslec.org/">http://www.imslec.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.voyagersopris.com/professional-development/letrs/overview">https://www.voyagersopris.com/professional-development/letrs/overview</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>SREB Teacher Training Resources</td>
<td><a href="https://www.sreb.org/dyslexia/training">https://www.sreb.org/dyslexia/training</a></td>
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<td>Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia</td>
<td><a href="https://www.mtsu.edu/dyslexia/overview.php">https://www.mtsu.edu/dyslexia/overview.php</a></td>
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<td>Teacher Training Programs (Independent)</td>
<td><a href="https://dyslexiaida.org/accredited-teaching-training-programs/">https://dyslexiaida.org/accredited-teaching-training-programs/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Training Programs (University)</td>
<td><a href="https://dyslexiaida.org/university-programs-accredited-by-ida/">https://dyslexiaida.org/university-programs-accredited-by-ida/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Georgia Dyslexia Certificate Program</td>
<td><a href="https://online.uga.edu/degrees-certificates/graduate-certificate-dyslexia">https://online.uga.edu/degrees-certificates/graduate-certificate-dyslexia</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1, 2019</td>
<td>Dyslexia Informational Handbook released</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 30, 2019</td>
<td>Georgia Professional Standards Commission dyslexia endorsement made available</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1, 2020</td>
<td>K-3 screening policies for students who have characteristics of dyslexia, other disorders, or both</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020-2021 School Year</td>
<td>Three-year pilot program begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1, 2022</td>
<td>Evaluation of the results of the pilot program</td>
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<tr>
<td>2024-2025 School Year</td>
<td>Screening for all K-3 students for characteristics of dyslexia</td>
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Need More Information?

https://www.gadoe.org/dyslexia

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www.gadoe.org

Thank you!
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Let me know how you liked the talk...fill out a survey here.