**DYSLEXIA**

**What is Dyslexia?**

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 growth of vocabulary and background knowledge (International Dyslexia Association, 2002).

**How do you know if a student is exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia?**

If a student scores below benchmark on their school’s reading screening, a dyslexia specific screening assessment will be administered. Parents may also request a dyslexia specific screening if they have concerns. School employees cannot diagnose dyslexia, but can screen for dyslexia using instruments recommended on the Mississippi Department of Education website.

**What if a student has a diagnosis of dyslexia or fails the dyslexia specific screening?**

If a student is identified as exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia on the dyslexia-specific screening assessment or has a diagnosis of dyslexia, he or she will receive **dyslexia specific accommodations and/or interventions**in order to provide equal access to curriculum. These accommodations/interventions will be developed, monitored and communicated to parents by the school’s Teacher Support Team (TST) as part of the RtI Process discussed on page 34 of the *Mississippi Dyslexia Handbook*.

**What classroom strategies or accommodations can be implemented to support students exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia?**

* Assistive technology
* Clarify or simplify directions
* Highlight essential information
* Develop reading guides
* Provide a copy of lecture notes
* Use step by step instructions
* Use of graphic organizers
* Use cues to denote important items
* Display work samples
* Peer learning
* Flexible work times
* Provide additional practice
* Adjust or substitute assignments

**What intervention resources are available to support students exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia?**

Every school in our district has teachers trained to administer the dyslexia-specific screening assessment. We also have teachers in each school trained to implement a variety of dyslexia specific interventions.

Our district will have ongoing professional development about dyslexia specific interventions throughout the school year.

|  |
| --- |
| **Parent and Teacher Resources** |
| [Dyslexia Quick Reference](https://create.piktochart.com/output/15050252-dyslexia-overview) |
| [Kids Health](http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/dyslexia.html) |
| [Smart Kids](http://www.smartkidswithld.org/first-steps/what-are-learning-disabilities/dyslexia-an-overview/) |
| [Bright Solutions](http://www.dys-add.com/) |
| [Dyslexia Simulation](https://www.understood.org/en/tools/through-your-childs-eyes) |
| [Dyslexia Basics](https://dyslexiaida.org/dyslexia-basics/) |
| [Mississippi Dyslexia Handbook](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/elementary-education-and-reading-library/mississippi-best-practices-dyslexia-handbook-2010-12-13.pdf?sfvrsn=2) |
| [Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity](http://dyslexia.yale.edu/resources/accommodations/) |