

SCREENING STUDENTS FOR DYSLEXIA

The superintendent and staff of the Jackson Public School District recognize the need to have students in kindergarten and first grade screened for Dyslexia. It is the policy of Jackson Public Schools to comply with all of the requirements outlined in the Dyslexia legislation provided by the MS code (HB No.754, 2021). Pursuant to HB 754, Jackson Public School District shall ensure that the following actions take place:

1. Any student attending Jackson Public Schools will be screened using the District approved diagnostic/screener for Dyslexia at the following times:
 - a) Kindergartners: spring of the kindergarten year, and
 - b) First graders: fall of the first-grade year.
2. The Jackson Public School District approved diagnostic/screener shall be composed of the following components as outlined in HB 1031:
 - a) Phonological awareness and phonemic awareness;
 - b) Sound symbol recognition;
 - c) Alphabet knowledge;
 - d) Decoding skills;
 - e) Encoding skills; and
 - f) Rapid naming
3. If the student fails the screener, the parent or legal guardian must be notified of the results of the screener; and
4. If the parent or legal guardian of a student who fails the Dyslexia screener exercise the option to have a subsequent evaluation performed, and such evaluation is administered by licensed professionals including *Psychologists* licensed under Chapter 31, Title 73, MS Code of 1972; or *Speech-Language Pathologists*, licensed under Chapter 38, Title 73, and MS Code of 1972. Failure of the screener does not equate to a diagnosis of Dyslexia; further assessment would be required by a licensed professional as noted above.
5. JPSD will accept dyslexia evaluations administered by one of the aforementioned professionals and use the resulting diagnosis to determine eligibility to receive additional intervention services.
6. JPSD shall make an initial determination of whether a student diagnosed with dyslexia meets the eligibility criteria under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to have an Individualized Education Program developed and to receive services. If a student's diagnosis of dyslexia does not result in an IDEA eligibility determination then the district will proceed with the process for determining if the student is eligible for a 504 Plan under the Rehabilitation Act based on the presumption that proficiency in spelling, reading, and writing are 17 essential for the student to achieve appropriate educational progress.
7. The district shall develop interventions and strategies to address the needs of those students diagnosed with dyslexia which provide the necessary accommodations to enable the student to achieve appropriate educational progress.
8. The district will conduct four (4) hours of in-service training in dyslexia and related disorder awareness education every three (3) years for all licensed educators and paraprofessionals responsible for the instruction. The training shall be delivered following the State Department of Education.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi

LEGAL REF:

DATE: August 3, 2021