



**Dyslexia Working Group  
Virtual Meeting  
March 8, 2021 Public Notes**

**Time and Location**

10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Zoom Meeting Invite

**Attendees**

**Dyslexia Working Group (DWG) Members:** Alex Christy, Kathleen Collins, Tamara Durbin, Karin, Johnson, Amanda Harris, Kathy McCall, Laura Santerre-Lemmon, Jamie Brackney, and Jennifer Urbach.  
**Colorado Department of Education Staff:** Floyd Cobb, Melissa Colman, Anji Gallanos, Ellen Hunter, and Veronica Fiedler  
**Meeting Facilitator:** Debbie Hunsaker, STRIVE Consulting

**Meeting Objectives**

- To ask questions of CDE around dyslexia and the READ Act
- To be informed of updates about the Dyslexia Pilot and provide feedback
- To identify final recommendations for dyslexia protocols/processes
- To learn about the Boulder Valley School District's dyslexia pilot
- To hear informative presentations by and provide feedback to the Teacher Training small working group

**Meeting Activities**

**CDE Updates: Melissa Colman and Ellen Hunter**

- Adjusted timeline dyslexia pilot program due to COVID 19
- Update on the status of CDE K – 3 teacher training in evidence-based reading
- Requested the DWG to determine the purpose, structure and work for the 2021-2022 school year
- Requested DWG feedback on revisions to the CDE Dyslexia handbook.

**Timeline and outcomes for 2020-2021:** Facilitator Debbie Hunsaker

- **Began in Year 1 to Finish in Year 2: September 2019-December 2020:** Identify and recommend appropriate dyslexia screening tools and processes including comprehensive assessments that address the recognized challenges of dyslexia, including phonological processing, phonemic awareness, and decoding and encoding skills.
- **Year 2: November 2020-March 2021 :** Identify and recommend components of dyslexia awareness training for Colorado educators including the content, target audience, time frame for training, and projected cost.
- **Year 3: 2021- 2022 School Year:** Identify and recommend educator training for in-state approved programs of preparation for teachers and alternative teacher programs. Recommend training for current educators, based on effective practices in other states and from state and national organizations focusing on literacy.
- **Year 2: September 2020-May 2021:** Provide recommendations to the department concerning the design and implementation of the Colorado dyslexia pilot program.



### **Meeting Activities**

#### **Boulder Valley School District Presentation**

- Michelle Qazi, M.Ed., director of reading presented on Boulder Valley's Dyslexia Pilot program. Presented on:
  - History
  - Universal screener and the phases (1-5) of implementation due to COVID-19
  - Lessons learned
  - Adding schools non dual- language and dual language

#### **Subcommittee Presentations**

- Potential Indicators of Dyslexia by grade level
  - The group moved the indicators from substantial to final recommendations.
- Learning Ally's Resources
  - The group will provide resources that the DWG could share and recommend
  - DWG team leads will have a follow up meeting with Learning Ally's.
- Dyslexia Indicators and Criteria Chart
  - The group determined another meeting was needed with CDE to move this work forward and getting the correct information from the approved vendors.
- Comprehensive Assessments List
  - The DWG wants districts and schools to have a resource that would identify the gaps in their approved interim assessment for dyslexia indicators, and then have ideas for filling those gaps with additional assessments.
  - This resource is still an initial recommendation and will be a companion document to the Dyslexia Indicators and Criteria Chart.
- Screening Flowchart for Dyslexia
  - DWG left the flowchart at substantial recommendations.
- Parent Dyslexia Screening Information
  - The purpose is to provide a companion guide to the Screening Flowchart for Dyslexia.
  - The DWG left the document at substantial recommendations.
- Teacher Training Group
  - Identified six objectives for the small working group:
    - Why are we here?
    - What is dyslexia?
    - How do we identify who is at risk for dyslexia?
    - What are components of effective instruction?
    - How can schools support parents?
    - What resources are available?
  - Objective: Why are we here?
    - Outcome: Participants will read and understand HB 19-1134 and have empathy and understanding of those diagnosed with dyslexia.
  - What is dyslexia?
    - Outcome: Participants will be able to explain dyslexia.
  - How do we identify who is at risk for dyslexia?
    - Outcome: Participants will understand indicators of dyslexia and the screening process

### **Sharing DWG Recommendations and Resources**

The DWG discussed embedding resources within existing state level and CDE initiatives, college and teacher preparation program, Colorado governmental agencies, and educator training opportunities. The DWG identified this resource as a substantial recommendation.

### **Summary of Recommendations**

- Potential Indicators of Dyslexia by grade level - moved from substantial to final recommendations
- Comprehensive Assessments List - initial recommendation
- Sharing Resources Document - approved for a substantial recommendation