



## **Dyslexia Working Group**

### **March 12, 2020 Meeting Summary**

#### **Location**

mindSpark, 455 S. Pierce Street, Lakewood CO, 80226

#### **Attendees**

**Dyslexia Working Group Members:** Alex Christy, Kathleen Collins, Amanda Harris, Andrea Kamper, Karen Leopold, Kathy McCall, Laura Santerre-Lemmon, Jamie Brackney, and Jennifer Urbach

**Colorado Department of Education Staff:** Melissa Colman, Floyd Cobb, Paul Foster, Alex Frazier, Anji Gallanos, Ellen Hunter, and Veronica Fiedler

**Meeting Facilitator:** Debbie Hunsaker, STRIVE Consulting

#### **Meeting Objectives**

- Learn about Dyslexia Pilot updates and provide feedback
- Review and discuss responses from READ Act Approved Interim Assessment vendors to identify and recommend screening assessment tools and processes
- Identify and recommend comprehensive assessments (Comprehensive Diagnostic Assessment for Dyslexia Identification)
- To listen and learn from ALLIES about their assessment for the identification of dyslexia
- Small-working groups share research completed during January and February on HB 1134

#### **Meeting Activities**

##### *1. CDE opening and sharing*

READ Act Rules and Dyslexia Pilot: Anji Gallanos shared an update on the READ rulemaking process and the Dyslexia Pilot Project Application pursuant to HB-1134 22-20.5-104 (2). The DWG was asked to provide feedback on the application. The DWG asked questions and provided feedback during the meeting.

##### *2. DWG discussion on responses from READ ACT approved interim assessment vendors*

The DWG discussed substantial recommendations from January and determined additional information was needed before making final recommendations on the following:

- The DWG discussed adding letter naming fluency and sound symbol correspondence and determined they needed additional information before making any further recommendations. A small working group will research letter naming fluency and sound symbol correspondence and present to the DWG in April.
- The DWG discussed the implications and challenges of recommending schools asking one or two simple question as part of the screener during events schools are already conducting such as kindergarten entry, home language questioner/screener, family night or school

registration. They determined that they need additional information including the need to stay simple for schools to manage such as, did you have difficulty reading or spelling, and possibly adding questions as part of the comprehensive diagnostic assessment for identification of dyslexia and not part of a screener. A small working group will present pros and cons of both during the April meeting.

The DWG came to consensus on substantial recommendations from January for using the four criteria (commonly accepted features of dyslexia) on page 13 in the CDE Dyslexia Handbook. and moved to the criteria to final recommendations.

The DWG also recommends CDE posting information that the seven vendors sent but asking the vendors to condense the information into a visual or chart or simpler version that also includes the four criteria for screening for dyslexia (page 13 of the CDE Dyslexia Handbook) and any appropriate information by grade level.

### 3. *ALLIES (District 49) presentation*

Academy of Literacy, Learning and Innovation Excellence (Allies) presented on their Characteristic Profile of Dyslexia and answered questions from the DWG covering the following topics:

- Background and journey of ALLIES
- Dyslexia screener and selection of students to attend the school
- A brief overview of their data, how they monitor success, state testing, course work, accomplishments, and challenges
- Suggestions to the DWG of things to be aware of and things for DWG should discuss in depth moving forward to help with the success of dyslexic students

### 4. *Small Working Group Presentations*

Each of the small working groups provided updates on their work:

- Comprehensive Diagnostic Assessment for Dyslexia identification
- Evidence-based interventions and training requirements that were common across other state plans
- Broad overview of dyslexia awareness training topics
- Educator training and what is in the Colorado Dyslexia Handbook and additional requirements higher education has to report to CDE