

SENATE BILL No. 44

By Senator Abrams

1-17

1 AN ACT concerning school districts; relating to the identification and
2 instruction of pupils with dyslexia.

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4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) Upon receipt of a written statement from a licensed
6 physician, psychologist or psychiatrist, stating that a child has been
7 diagnosed with dyslexia, a school district shall implement best practices in
8 instructing such child pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the
9 state board of education. No evaluation or independent educational
10 evaluation shall be required prior to the implementation of such best
11 practices. The term "dyslexia" shall be used in all individualized
12 education programs, 504 accommodation plans and other educational
13 plans.

14 (b) The state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations:

15 (1) To establish best practices of instruction in general education for
16 children with dyslexia, including, but not limited to, implementation of a
17 section 504 accommodation plan. Such services shall be provided on a
18 continuum under the response to intervention model, and shall not be
19 limited if the student qualifies and needs remediation. Such services shall
20 provide an individual or small group learning environment outside the
21 regular classroom with access to instructional strategies that utilize
22 intensive multisensory phonetic methods for 90 minutes per instructional
23 day;

24 (2) to require school districts to provide early screening or testing of
25 pupils enrolled in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and grades one and two
26 to identify those pupils with significant language and literacy disorders
27 including, but not limited to, dyslexia; and

28 (3) to require that teachers successfully complete teacher preparation
29 courses that include the language essentials for teachers of reading and
30 spelling curriculum or other appropriate intensive multisensory teacher
31 training programs that are specifically designed for children with dyslexia,
32 and knowledge of best practices of instruction for children with dyslexia,
33 including scientifically-based reading instructional components.

34 (c) For purposes of this section, the term "dyslexia" means a specific
35 learning disability that is neurological in origin, and characterized by
36 difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and poor spelling and

1 decoding abilities. The term "dyslexia" includes: (1) Those difficulties
2 described above that result from a deficit in the phonological component
3 of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities
4 and the provision of effective classroom instruction; and (2) secondary
5 consequences, such as problems in reading comprehension and reduced
6 reading experience that can impede the growth of vocabulary and
7 background knowledge.

8 (d) The provisions of this section shall be part of and supplemental to
9 the special education for exceptional children act, K.S.A. 72-961 et seq.,
10 and amendments thereto.

11 Sec. 2. On or before January 15, 2014, and each year thereafter, the
12 state board of education shall prepare an annual report on dyslexia
13 screening, identification and intervention by school districts and deliver
14 such report to the committee on education of the senate and the committee
15 on education of the house of representatives.

16 Sec. 3. If a child diagnosed with dyslexia is not provided appropriate
17 intensive multisensory instruction within six weeks from the date the
18 notification of such diagnosis is delivered to the school district, then the
19 school district shall pay for appropriate intensive multisensory instruction
20 provided by a third party, who shall be selected by the parent of the child,
21 including the costs of transportation to and from the location where such
22 instruction is being provided.

23 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
24 publication in the statute book.
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