MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents

FROM: Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Dyslexia Awareness

During the October 8, 2015, Board Meeting, the Alabama State Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt Amended Rule 290-3-1-.02 of the Alabama Administrative Code pertaining to regulations governing public schools’ support of students with dyslexia and students exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia. This code defines dyslexia, Response to Instruction (RtI), and the Problem Solving Team (PST) process and outlines the procedure for identifying and supporting students in need of dyslexia-specific services.

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is currently developing resources that can be used to provide training on dyslexia-specific awareness, screening, interventions, classroom strategies, academic accommodations, and use of assistive technology. You should receive detailed information regarding these resources later this month.

Additionally, during the October 8, 2015, meeting, the Alabama State Board of Education voted unanimously to recognize the month of October as Dyslexia Awareness Month. Dyslexia impacts between 10% and 20% of children in Alabama schools. Through effective screening, students with dyslexia can be identified as early as kindergarten, long before their learning challenges have resulted in learning disabilities. Please join us in promoting awareness of dyslexia during the month of October and pledging to support the academic achievement of Alabama students.

For additional information regarding training and resources related to dyslexia-specific instruction and interventions, please contact Ms. Judith Stone at jstone@alsde.edu or (334) 353-1389. If you have questions regarding the PST process or RtI, please contact Mrs. Christine Spear at cspear@alsde.edu or (334) 353-5320.

TRB/CRS/LM

cc: Mrs. Sherrill W. Parris; Mrs. Shanthia Washington; Mrs. Robin A. Nelson; Ms. Judith Stone; Mrs. Christine Spear

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