

The underlined portion indicates the revisions to the Administrative Code which were approved by the State Board of Education on October 8, 2015.

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

SUPP. NO. 98-4

CH. 290-3-1

RULES

OF THE

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CHAPTER 290-3-1

PUBLIC SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

SUPP. NO. (15)-3

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

(19) Problem Solving Teams (PST). By August 15, 2011, all public schools in Alabama will be required to implement the PST model.

(a) Definitions.

(1.) The Problem Solving Teams (PST) is a model to guide general education intervention services for all students who have academic and /or behavioral difficulties. The PST is central to the school's successful implementation of the Response to Instruction (RtI) framework.

(2.) Response to Instruction (RtI) refers to an instructional framework that promotes a well-integrated system connecting general, gifted, supplemental, and special education services in providing high-quality, standards-based instruction and intervention that is matched to students' academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs. RtI combines core instruction, assessment, and intervention within a multi-tiered system to increase student achievement and reduce behavior problems.

(b) Decisions regarding the number of PSTs needed by a school should be determined at the school level; however, a minimum of one PST per school is required to review data-based documentation regarding students' progress regularly, advise teachers on specific interventions matched to student needs, and communicate with parents regarding student intervention needs being provided.

(c) The Problem Solving Teams will analyze screening and progress-monitoring data to assist teachers in planning and implementing appropriate instruction and evidence-based interventions for all students with academic and/or behavioral difficulties, including those students who exhibit the characteristics of dyslexia.

(d) The documentation requirements for a referral to special education found in the Alabama Administrative Code, Chapter 290-8-9.01(2) and (4) (Child Identification) and Chapter 290-8-9.03(10)(b)1, (10)(c)2.(ii), (10)(d)2.(I)(II)(ii) and (10)(d)4 (Disability Definitions, Criteria, and Minimum Required Evaluative Components) must be collected and provided by the PST to rule out the lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math including the essential components of reading instruction or Limited English Proficiency (LEP), as the determining factor in the eligibility decision.

(e) Any student who is reevaluated and determined not eligible for special education services must be referred to the PST to determine the appropriate supplemental services to facilitate successful transition in the general education program.

(20) Dyslexia. Dyslexia is a specific learning challenge that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

(a) The Alabama State Department of Education will make available a dyslexia-specific training accredited by the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) to prepare individuals to implement multisensory structured language teaching techniques and strategies.

(b) Professional development regarding dyslexia and implications for the classroom teachers, will be provided. This professional development should target dyslexia awareness training, dyslexia screening, dyslexia-specific classroom strategies, academic accommodations, and use of assistive technology.

(c) Students will be screened for characteristics of dyslexia using screening instruments currently in place for use in public schools.

(d) Based on the screening results, the problem solving teams will analyze screening and progress monitoring data to assist teachers in planning and implementing appropriate instruction and evidence-based interventions for all students with academic and/or behavioral difficulties, including those students who exhibit the characteristics of dyslexia. Guidance may include suggestions of appropriate tiered interventions, dyslexia specific interventions, academic accommodations as appropriate, and access to assistive technology. The dyslexia-specific intervention, as defined in AAC Rule 290-3-1-.02(20)(f) and described in the Alabama Dyslexia Resource Guide, shall be provided by an individual who has expertise in providing dyslexia-specific interventions

(e) The PST will notify the parents of the results of the dyslexia-specific screening, will provide parents with a copy of the goals of the dyslexia-specific intervention plan, and with data-based documentation regarding the student's progress on a regular basis. Independent dyslexia evaluations provided by a parent or guardian to the PST must be considered by the members of the PST.

(f) Dyslexia-specific intervention shall mean evidenced-based, specialized reading, writing, and spelling instruction that is multisensory in nature equipping students to simultaneously use multiple senses (vision, hearing, touch, and movement). Dyslexia-specific intervention employs direct instruction of systematic and cumulative content. The sequence must begin with the easiest and most basic elements and progress methodically to more difficult material. Each step must also be based on those already learned. Concepts must be systematically reviewed to strengthen memory. Components of dyslexic-specific intervention include instruction targeting phonological awareness, sound symbol association, syllable structure, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

(g) Dyslexia interventionist refers to the teacher or individual who provides dyslexia-specific intervention. The dyslexia interventionist shall have successfully completed a certification training

course or shall have completed training in the appropriate implementation of the evidence-based, dyslexia-specific intervention being provided.

(h) The Alabama State Department of Education working with the Dyslexia Advisory Council appointed by the State Board of Education shall develop and maintain a dyslexia resource guide for the use of LEAs, public schools, teachers, and parents.