Dyslexia Advisory Council (DAC)

- Established in 2015 through the Dyslexia Amendments to the Alabama Administrative Code.
- SBOE members appoint dedicated parents and educators from across the state to serve on the DAC.
- Provides feedback to the elected members of the SBOE and the employees at the ALSDE on educational needs of students with dyslexia.
- Assists in determining the effectiveness of services being provided in Alabama schools.
- Developed and periodically updates the Alabama Dyslexia Resource.
- DAC members also provide support to families of students impacted by dyslexia challenges.
WHY JOHNNY CAN'T READ
and what you can do about it

RUDOLF FLESCH

ENDORSED BY READER'S DIGEST

USE THIS BOOK TO TEACH YOUR CHILD TO READ IN SIX WEEKS
The Ladder of Reading

5% Learning to read seems effortless

Advantaged by a structured literacy approach

35%
Learning to read is relatively easy with broad instruction

40 to 50%
Learning to read proficiently requires code-based explicit, systematic, and sequential instruction

10 to 15% (Dyslexia)
Learning to read requires code-based explicit/systematic/sequential/diagnostic instruction with many repetitions

© N. Young, 2012 (updated 2017)
Artwork by Dean Stanton
(Lyon, 1998; NRP, 2000; IDA, 2015; Hempenstall, 2016)
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.
Review…

When you see = Pronounce as

q = /d/ or /t/
z = /m/
p = /b/
b = /p/
ys = /er/
a, as in bat = /e/, as in pet
e, as in pet = /a/, as in bat
Directions: Read this passage to yourself and be prepared to take a test. You have one minute….

We pegin our qrib eq a faziliar blace, a poqy like yours enq zine. Iq conqains a hunqraq qrillion calls qheq work qogaqhys py qasign. Enq wiqhìn each one of qhese zany calls, each one qheq hes QNA, Qhe QNA coqe is axecqly qhe saze, a zess-broquceq rasuze. So qhe coqe in each call is iqanqical, a razarkaple puq veliq claiz. Qhis zeans qheq qhe calls are nearly alike, puq noq axecqly qhe saze. Qake, for insqence, qhe calls of qhe inqasqines; qheq qhey're viqal is cysqainly blain. Now qhink apouq qhe way you woulq qhink if qhose calls wyse qhe calls in your prain.
Dyslexia in a classroom

We begin our trip at a familiar place, a body like yours and mine. It contains a hundred trillion cells that work together by design. And within each one of these many cells, each one that has DNA, the DNA code is exactly the same, a mass-produced resume. So the code in each cell is identical, a remarkable but valid claim. This means that the cells are nearly alike, but not exactly the same. Take, for instance, the cells of the intestines; that they're vital is certainly plain. Now think about the way you would think if those cells were the cells in your brain.
October 8, 2015 – A Great Day for Alabama Literacy

"This is the best work that we've ever done."
- Ella Bell SBOE Member
Governor Kay Ivey signs the Alabama Literacy Act
All 50 States Have Adopted Dyslexia Laws or Regulations

AL SBOE adopted AAC Dyslexia Amendments in 2015
AL Legislature adopted Literacy Act in 2019
Next Steps

- Students should be administered skills based universal screeners at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year.
- The Literacy Act requires all students who have a reading deficit to receive dyslexia specific intervention (Section 5 (b) pg 14).
- Revise the Dyslexia Resource Guide to meet the ALA.
- Collaborating with IDA-AL and ALSDE on a CALT pin for dyslexia therapists.
- Analyze dyslexia data reported this fall to determine the needs of schools and districts.
- Offer a CALT stipend to MSLE trained therapists.
- Encourage districts to utilize the Dyslexia Resource Guide and vetted lists to meet the ALA.
Work towards a preventative model by training all K-3 classroom teachers in LETRS, which is the gold standard in science of reading training, by 2022.

Ensure that every school district has access to an appropriate number of dyslexia specialists who have completed IDA accredited training as described in AAC Rule 290-3-1-.02(20)(a).
Final thoughts…

- Alabama has the strongest literacy bill in the nation, but implementation will determine reading gains.

- A zip code should not determine the level of instruction students receive.

- “Why isn’t everyone in this country angry like me? Why are they not losing sleep?” “It’s unacceptable for children to not have a chance right off the bat. And we are not going to let anybody sleep until we have changed for the better for all children.” Sonya Thomas
Thank you for your tireless efforts on the part of Alabama students (especially those with dyslexia)!

Questions??

Dyslexia Advisory Council

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