



Dyslexia Assessment Guide

Guidance on Assessing for Characteristics of Dyslexia

Updated 9/14/2022

BRIEF DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

This implementation guide has been created in order to support [Idaho Code § 33-1811](#). This code states that all Idaho students, K-5, must receive a tier 1 screener in the fall. Students who have been identified as having characteristics of dyslexia based on their tier 1 screener will then be required to be administered a tier 2 dyslexia diagnostic measure. Parents, guardians, or classroom teachers who have identified characteristics of dyslexia within a student may also request that they receive the tier 2 diagnostic.

WHAT IS A TIER 1 DYSLEXIA SCREENER?

A dyslexia screening tool is a valid and reliable assessment used to inform educators and other stakeholders of the academic strengths and weaknesses of a particular student or set of students, specifically in the area of literacy. A screener is an assessment used to determine whether or not a student is at risk for reduced learning outcomes.

WHO RECEIVES THE SCREENING?

All Idaho students, K-5, will receive a dyslexia screener. The fall IRI assessment that K-3 students take every year will serve as the dyslexia screener. K-3 students can also take the Rapid Automatic Naming (RAN) assessment that is available through Istation. The Idaho State Department of Education has [identified reliable, valid, evidence-based screeners](#) that would be appropriate at the 4th & 5th grade level.

WHAT IS A TIER 2 DIAGNOSTIC MEASURE?

A tier 2 diagnostic measure is an assessment administered to students identified by the tier 1 screener with characteristics of Dyslexia. This targeted measure provides insights as to what interventions may be appropriate for these students and their specific learning goals.

WHO RECEIVES THE TIER 2 DIAGNOSTIC MEASURE?

K-5 students who have been identified as having characteristics of dyslexia by the tier 1 screener will be administered a tier 2 diagnostic measure. The Idaho State Department of Education has [identified reliable, valid, evidence-based tier 2 diagnostic measures](#) that would be appropriate kindergarten- grade 5.

WHAT IF I ALREADY ADMINISTER AN ASSESSMENT THAT QUALIFIES AS A TIER 1 SCREENER OR A TIER 2 DIAGNOSTIC?

If a district or charter already administers a tier 1 screener that assesses the criteria in the legislation then they can continue administering that screener to their students.

If a district or charter already administers a tier 2 diagnostic measure that provides sufficient evidence for necessary and specific interventions or instructional needs pertaining to early literacy, then they can continue administering that diagnostic to their students.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE STATE LIST OF TIER 1 AND TIER 2 ASSESSMENTS

As directed in legislation the state has identified reliable, valid, evidence-based screening tools and tier 2 diagnostic measures for use by local education agencies to evaluate the literacy skills of students in grades K-5 for characteristics of Dyslexia. The list can be found on the [state dyslexia webpage](#).

WHAT SKILLS NEED TO BE ASSESSED TO IDENTIFY CHARACTERISTICS OF DYSLEXIA?

Skill	Description
Phonological Awareness Skills	An awareness that spoken words are made up of individual sounds.
Phonemic Decoding Efficiency	The ability of children to recognize unfamiliar words, pseudo-words or non-words.
Rapid Automatic Naming (RAN)	The ability to quickly name aloud a series of familiar items (images, letters, numbers).
Encoding Ability	The process of hearing a sound and being able to write a symbol to represent that sound.
Sight Word Reading	The ability to rapidly, effortlessly and accurately recognize or decode words.

PROCESS FOR ASSESSING & IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS OF DYSLEXIA

Step 1 Fall 2022 : Screen K-5 students for characteristics of dyslexia.

- K-3 students will be administered the Idaho Reading Indicator.
- Students in grades 4 & 5 will be administered the screener identified by their district or charter.

Step 2: Analyze data provided by the screener for characteristics of dyslexia.

SDE will publish a training schedule soon that offers specific virtual training opportunities in Dyslexia assessment, characteristics of Dyslexia, and intervention support for students with characteristics of Dyslexia.

Step 3: Administer K-5 tier 2 diagnostic measures to students whose tier 1 screener shows characteristics of dyslexia.

- Guidance to include guiding questions that will support general education teachers and school teams to analyze tier 1 data for characteristics of Dyslexia is coming soon.

Step 4: Provide evidence-based intervention in alignment with the Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Plan and state Dyslexia Handbook (in development) for any student who shows characteristics of dyslexia.

For Questions Contact

Content and Curriculum Department

208 332 6967

contentandcurriculum@sde.idaho.gov