

SENATE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2379

AN ACT

To amend chapters 167 and 633, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to dyslexia.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI,
AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section A. Chapters 167 and 633, RSMo, are amended by
2 adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 167.950
3 and 633.420, to read as follows:

4 167.950. 1. (1) By December 31, 2017, the department of
5 elementary and secondary education shall develop guidelines for
6 the appropriate screening of students for dyslexia and related
7 disorders and the necessary classroom support for students with
8 dyslexia and related disorders. Such guidelines shall be
9 consistent with the findings and recommendations of the task
10 force created under section 633.420.

11 (2) In the 2018-19 school year and subsequent years, each
12 public school, including each charter school, shall conduct
13 dyslexia screenings for students in the appropriate year
14 consistent with the guidelines developed by the department of
15 elementary and secondary education.

1 (3) In the 2018-19 school year and subsequent years, the
2 school board of each district and the governing board of each
3 charter school shall provide reasonable classroom support
4 consistent with the guidelines developed by the department of
5 elementary and secondary education.

6 2. In the 2018-19 school year and subsequent years, the
7 practicing teacher assistance programs established under section
8 168.400 shall offer two hours of in-service training provided by
9 each local school district for all practicing teachers in such
10 district regarding dyslexia and related disorders. Each charter
11 school shall also offer all of its teachers two hours of training
12 on dyslexia and related disorders. Districts and charter schools
13 may seek assistance from the department of elementary and
14 secondary education in developing and providing such training.
15 Completion of such training shall count as two contact hours of
16 professional development under section 168.021.

17 3. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:

18 (1) "Dyslexia", a disorder that is neurological in origin,
19 characterized by difficulties with accurate and fluent word
20 recognition and poor spelling and decoding abilities that
21 typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of
22 language, often unexpected in relation to other cognitive
23 abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction,
24 and of which secondary consequences may include problems in
25 reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can
26 impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. Nothing in
27 this definition shall require a student with dyslexia to obtain
28 an individualized education program (IEP) unless the student has

1 otherwise met the federal conditions necessary;

2 (2) "Dyslexia screening", a short test conducted by a
3 teacher or school counselor to determine whether a student likely
4 has dyslexia or a related disorder in which a positive result
5 does not represent a medical diagnosis but indicates that the
6 student could benefit from approved support;

7 (3) "Related disorders", disorders similar to or related to
8 dyslexia, such as developmental auditory imperception, dysphasia,
9 specific developmental dyslexia, developmental dysgraphia, and
10 developmental spelling disability;

11 (4) "Support", low-cost and effective best practices, such
12 as oral examinations and extended test-taking periods, used to
13 support students who have dyslexia or any related disorder.

14 4. The state board of education shall promulgate rules and
15 regulations for each public school to screen students for
16 dyslexia and related disorders and to provide the necessary
17 classroom support for students with dyslexia and related
18 disorders. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is
19 defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority
20 delegated in this section shall become effective only if it
21 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter
22 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and
23 chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested
24 with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to
25 delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
26 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
27 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2016,
28 shall be invalid and void.

1 5. Nothing in this section shall require the MO HealthNet
2 program to expand the services that it provides.

3 633.420. 1. For the purposes of this section, the term
4 "dyslexia" means a disorder that is neurological in origin,
5 characterized by difficulties with accurate and fluent word
6 recognition, and poor spelling and decoding abilities that
7 typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of
8 language, often unexpected in relation to other cognitive
9 abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction,
10 and of which secondary consequences may include problems in
11 reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can
12 impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. Nothing in
13 this section shall prohibit a district from assessing students
14 for dyslexia and offering students specialized reading
15 instruction if a determination is made that a student suffers
16 from dyslexia. Nothing in this definition shall require a
17 student with dyslexia to obtain an individualized education
18 program (IEP) unless the student has otherwise met the federal
19 conditions necessary.

20 2. There is hereby created the "Legislative Task Force on
21 Dyslexia". The joint committee on education shall provide
22 technical and administrative support as required by the task
23 force to fulfill its duties; any such support involving monetary
24 expenses shall first be approved by the chairman of the joint
25 committee on education. The task force shall meet at least
26 quarterly and may hold meetings by telephone or video conference.
27 The task force shall advise and make recommendations to the
28 governor, joint committee on education, and relevant state

1 agencies regarding matters concerning individuals with dyslexia,
2 including education and other adult and adolescent services.

3 3. The task force shall be comprised of twenty-one members
4 consisting of the following:

5 (1) Two members of the senate appointed by the president
6 pro tempore of the senate, with one member appointed from the
7 minority party and one member appointed from the majority party;

8 (2) Two members of the house of representatives appointed
9 by the speaker of the house of representatives, with one member
10 appointed from the minority party and one member appointed from
11 the majority party;

12 (3) The commissioner of education, or his or her designee;

13 (4) One representative from an institution of higher
14 education located in this state with specialized expertise in
15 dyslexia and reading instruction;

16 (5) A representative from a state teachers association or
17 the Missouri National Education Association;

18 (6) A representative from the International Dyslexia
19 Association of Missouri;

20 (7) A representative from Decoding Dyslexia of Missouri;

21 (8) A representative from the Missouri Association of
22 Elementary School Principals;

23 (9) A representative from the Missouri Council of
24 Administrators of Special Education;

25 (10) A professional licensed in the state of Missouri with
26 experience diagnosing dyslexia including, but not limited to, a
27 licensed psychologist, school psychologist, or neuropsychologist;

28 (11) A speech-language pathologist with training and

1 experience in early literacy development and effective research-
2 based intervention techniques for dyslexia, including an Orton-
3 Gillingham remediation program recommended by the Missouri
4 Speech-Language Hearing Association;

5 (12) A certified academic language therapist recommended by
6 the Academic Language Therapists Association who is a resident of
7 this state;

8 (13) A representative from an independent private provider
9 or nonprofit organization serving individuals with dyslexia;

10 (14) An assistive technology specialist with expertise in
11 accessible print materials and assistive technology used by
12 individuals with dyslexia recommended by the Missouri assistive
13 technology council;

14 (15) One private citizen who has a child who has been
15 diagnosed with dyslexia;

16 (16) One private citizen who has been diagnosed with
17 dyslexia;

18 (17) A representative of the Missouri State Council of the
19 International Reading Association;

20 (18) A pediatrician with knowledge of dyslexia; and

21 (19) A member of the Missouri School Board Association.

22 4. The members of the task force, other than the members
23 from the general assembly and ex officio members, shall be
24 appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate or the
25 speaker of the house of representatives by September 1, 2016, by
26 alternating appointments beginning with the president pro tempore
27 of the senate. A chairperson shall be selected by the members of
28 the task force. Any vacancy on the task force shall be filled in

1 the same manner as the original appointment. Members shall serve
2 on the task force without compensation.

3 5. The task force shall make recommendations for a
4 statewide system for identification, intervention, and delivery
5 of supports for students with dyslexia, including the development
6 of resource materials and professional development activities.
7 These recommendations shall be included in a report to the
8 governor and joint committee on education and shall include
9 findings and proposed legislation and shall be made available no
10 longer than twelve months from the task force's first meeting.

11 6. The recommendations and resource materials developed by
12 the task force shall:

13 (1) Identify valid and reliable screening and evaluation
14 assessments and protocols that can be used and the appropriate
15 personnel to administer such assessments in order to identify
16 children with dyslexia or the characteristics of dyslexia as part
17 of an ongoing reading progress monitoring system, multi-tiered
18 system of supports, and special education eligibility
19 determinations in schools;

20 (2) Recommend an evidence-based reading instruction, with
21 consideration of the National Reading Panel Report and Orton-
22 Gillingham methodology principles for use in all Missouri
23 schools, and intervention system, including a list of effective
24 dyslexia intervention programs, to address dyslexia or
25 characteristics of dyslexia for use by schools in multi-tiered
26 systems of support and for services as appropriate for special
27 education eligible students;

28 (3) Develop and implement preservice and inservice

1 professional development activities to address dyslexia
2 identification and intervention, including utilization of
3 accessible print materials and assistive technology, within
4 degree programs such as education, reading, special education,
5 speech-language pathology, and psychology;

6 (4) Review teacher certification and professional
7 development requirements as they relate to the needs of students
8 with dyslexia;

9 (5) Examine the barriers to accurate information on the
10 prevalence of students with dyslexia across the state and
11 recommend a process for accurate reporting of demographic data;
12 and

13 (6) Study and evaluate current practices for diagnosing,
14 treating, and educating children in this state and examine how
15 current laws and regulations affect students with dyslexia in
16 order to present recommendations to the governor and the joint
17 committee on education.

18 7. The task force shall hire or contract for hire
19 specialist services to support the work of the task force as
20 necessary with appropriations made to the joint committee on
21 education for that purpose or from other available funding.

22 8. The task force authorized under this section shall
23 expire on August 31, 2018, unless reauthorized by an act of the
24 general assembly.