

## **ACT 1039 - Dyslexia Screening and Interventions**

### **Background**

In April 2015, Governor Asa Hutchison signed into law ACT 1268. The Dyslexia Law, as it is commonly known, was a direct response to concerns that ACT 1294 (2013) was not being properly implemented by Arkansas public school systems.

ACT 1268 was designed to ensure that the needs of all Arkansas children with dyslexia are effectively being met. It defines Dyslexia, describes required screening and intervention, and lists specific required actions by the state, educational cooperatives, and school districts.

In October 2016, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) updated the rules governing the implementation of ACT 1268. These upgraded rules provided further clarification, guidance, and instruction on how to meet the needs of students showing characteristics of Dyslexia.

In April 2017, the Arkansas Legislature passed ACT 1039 (SB 708) to amend and clarify code provisions regarding Dyslexia screening and intervention, and to add specific enforcement provisions ties to school accreditation. ACT 1039 also added new public posting requirements. **The information on this page meets or exceeds all posting requirements.**

### **Student Data**

During the 2016-17 school year, the Lawrence County School District identified a total of students showing the characteristics of Dyslexia. All of these students were placed in an approved intervention program. Specific numbers by campus were:

Elementary - 2

Middle- 0

High – 0

*Note: These are composite totals for the year. If students leave the district, these numbers may not exactly match final numbers on state reports.*

### **Universal Screening**

ACT 1039 requires universal screening in Kindergarten - 2nd grade for indicators of Dyslexia, as well as selective screening in grades 3rd-12th.

The Lawrence County School District currently uses **DIBELS** (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), **Elementary Spelling Inventory**, and **AR-RAN** (Arkansas Rapid Automatic Naming Screener) for such screenings.

## Dyslexia Program

ACT 1039 requires all Arkansas schools to have a Dyslexia Program in place to further evaluate students identified as having characteristics of Dyslexia, and then to tutor those students who require intervention. The Lawrence County School District uses the Sonday System and Connections OG in 3D. These programs follow the principles and content of a multisensory structured language approach.

Additional tools and assessments include: The **CTOPP-2** (Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing- 2nd edition), **PAT-2** (Phonological Awareness Test- 2nd edition), **KBIT-2** (Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test, Second Edition), **WRMT-3** (Woodcock Reading Mastery Tests, Third Edition), **TWS-5** (Test of Written Spelling-Fifth Edition), and the **GORT-5** (Gray Oral Reading Test).

## Dyslexia Interventionists

ACT 1039 requires that school districts utilize trained Dyslexia Interventionists. The interventionists/therapists for the Lawrence County School District are:

Elementary-	Jennifer Biggers, Jessica Light, Lucy Sellers
Middle-	Amy Privett
High-	Malessie Lamb

## Dyslexia Resource Guide

In January 2016, the Arkansas Department of Education created a Dyslexia Resource Guide to provide guidance for districts, schools, and teachers seeking to effectively meet Arkansas requirements for Dyslexia screening and intervention. In addition to Dyslexia specifics, it also outlines the relationship of Dyslexia Intervention to RTI, and how this combination meets IDEA (the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). The Lawrence County School District maintains full compliance with all provisions of this Guide.

[Dyslexia Resource Guide](#)