

Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1461

Introduced by

Representatives Strinden, P. Anderson, Mock, Schatz

Senators Davison, Kreun, Myrdal

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact new sections to chapters 15.1-32 and 15.1-34 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to dyslexia screenings and training for teachers and other staff;
3 to amend and reenact section 15.1-02-16 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to
4 credentials for dyslexia specialists; and to provide for a report to the legislative management.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-02-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **15.1-02-16. Superintendent of public instruction - Issuance of credentials to teachers**
9 **and administrators.**

10 The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules governing the issuance of:

- 11 1. Credentials for teachers of driver's education;
- 12 2. Credentials for teachers of early childhood special education;
- 13 3. Credentials for elementary school principals;
- 14 4. Credentials for teachers of students who are emotionally disturbed;
- 15 5. Credentials for teachers of students who are gifted and talented;
- 16 6. Credentials for secondary school principals;
- 17 7. Credentials for library media;
- 18 8. Credentials for teachers of title I;
- 19 9. Credentials for teachers of students who have intellectual disabilities;
- 20 10. Credentials for teachers of students who are physically disabled;
- 21 11. Credentials for coordinators of programs for students with limited English proficiency;
- 22 12. Credentials for school counselors;
- 23 13. Credentials for special education directors;
- 24 14. Credentials for special education strategists;

- 1 15. Credentials for teachers of students who have specific learning disabilities;
- 2 16. Credentials for superintendents;
- 3 17. Credentials for teachers of students who have vision impairments;
- 4 18. Credentials for dyslexia specialists;
- 5 19. Credentials for teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing; and
- 6 19.20. Certificate of completion for paraprofessionals.

7 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 15.1-32 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
8 and enacted as follows:

9 **Dyslexia screening - Report to legislative management.**

- 10 1. Each public elementary school shall offer to administer dyslexia screenings to
11 ~~each~~any enrolled student ~~by~~through the end of the second grade. A parent or legal
12 guardian of a student may refuse a dyslexia screening offered by the school.
- 13 2. The board of a school district may contract with, employ, and compensate dyslexia
14 specialists, credentialed by the superintendent of public instruction under section
15 15.1-02-16, to educate and train district teachers in appropriate dyslexia screening
16 methods, identification, and intervention. A dyslexia specialist hired by the board of a
17 school district must be trained in proven dyslexia remediation strategies, ~~such as the~~
18 ~~institute for multi-sensory education's comprehensive Orton-Gillingham training.~~
- 19 3. The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules, in consultation with
20 teachers, school administrators, and other stakeholders, setting forth the criteria for
21 administering dyslexia screenings and for notifying the student's parent or legal
22 guardian of the results of the screening.
- 23 4. ~~A school district must provide a student identified as having dyslexia with education~~
24 ~~services pursuant to this chapter. The education services must include instruction that~~
25 ~~is:~~
26 ~~a. Research and phonetically based;~~
27 ~~b. Multisensory; and~~
28 ~~c. Systematic.~~
29 ~~5. The board of each school district shall report annually to the superintendent of public~~
30 ~~instruction regarding the district's efforts to screen and identify students with dyslexia.~~

Before June first of each even-numbered year, the superintendent of public instruction shall compile the information and report to the legislative management.

~~6.5.~~ For purposes of this section, "dyslexia" means a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent recognition of words and poor spelling and decoding abilities, independent of the individual's general intelligence level.

SECTION 3. A new section to chapter 15.1-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Dyslexia - Training to teachers, administrators, and ancillary staff - Intervention.

~~1. At least once every year, each school district shall provide to elementary school teachers and administrators a minimum of one hour of professional development on dyslexia identification and intervention. Each school district shall encourage ancillary and support staff to participate in the professional development. The training must include:~~

- ~~a. Phonological awareness;~~
- ~~b. Sound symbol recognition;~~
- ~~c. Alphabet knowledge;~~
- ~~d. Decoding skills;~~
- ~~e. Rapid naming skills; and~~
- ~~f. Encoding.~~

~~2. Each school district shall report the professional development hours to the department of public instruction.~~

~~3.~~ The superintendent of public instruction shall collaborate with regional education associations to disseminate information, training materials, and notice of training opportunities to school districts and nonpublic schools regarding dyslexia identification and intervention. If public school personnel identify a student as having dyslexia, a trained teacher employed or contracted by the school may provide dyslexia intervention services to the student.