

Introduced by

Representatives Strinden, J. Johnson, Pyle, Satrom, Schatz

Senators Cleary, Davison, Kreun, Myrdal

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact ~~sections 15.1-32-25 and~~ section 15.1-32-26 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to ~~mandatory dyslexia screening and~~ the dyslexia screening and  
3 intervention program; to repeal section 15.1-32-25 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating  
4 to mandatory dyslexia screening; and to provide for a legislative management report.

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

6 ~~SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-32-25 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~  
7 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

8 ~~15.1-32-25. Reading Dyslexia screening.~~

9 ~~Each public elementary school shall include in the developing and processing of~~  
10 ~~assessments and screening of reading, administer universal screening for dyslexia which~~  
11 ~~includes the core components of phonetic awareness, decoding, and spelling and which is~~  
12 ~~approved by the superintendent of public instruction. The screening also must be offered if~~  
13 ~~requested by a parent, legal guardian, or teacher.~~

14 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-32-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **15.1-32-26. Dyslexia screening and intervention –Pilot program - Report to legislative**  
17 **management - Professional development.**

18 1. For purposes of this section:

19 a. "Dyslexia" means a specific learning disability that is ~~neurological~~ neurobiological  
20 in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent recognition of  
21 words and poor spelling and decoding abilities, independent of the individual's  
22 general intelligence level.

23 b. "Specialist trained in dyslexia" means an individual who:

- 1           (1) Has expertise providing training in phonological and phonemic awareness,  
2           sound and symbol relationships, alphabet knowledge, rapid naming skills,  
3           and encoding and decoding skills; and  
4           (2) ~~Is fluent in the dyslexia intervention process; and~~  
5           ~~(3)~~ Has training in identifying dyslexia characteristics and intervention  
6           processes from an approved provider on a list maintained by the  
7           superintendent of public instruction.
- 8           2. ~~Beginning with the 2019-20 school year and continuing through the 2022-23 school~~  
9           ~~year, the~~The superintendent of public instruction shall ~~establish and operate a pilot~~  
10           program to provide guidance and recommendations regarding proven strategies and  
11           early screening and intervention services for children with risk factors for dyslexia  
12           characteristics, including low phonemic awareness.
- 13           3. ~~To be eligible to participate in the program, a~~Each school district, regional education  
14           association, or and special education unit ~~must submit an application to the~~  
15           superintendent which shall:  
16           a. ~~Identifies a method of screening children for low phonemic awareness and other~~  
17           ~~risk factors for dyslexia;~~  
18           b. ~~Provides for the enrollment of children identified as having risk factors for~~  
19           ~~dyslexia in a reading program staffed by specialists trained in dyslexia and~~  
20           ~~multisensory structured language programs; and~~  
21           c. ~~Includes a methodology for evaluating the effects of the reading program on the~~  
22           ~~identified risk factors of the child.~~
- 23           4. Each grantee selected to participate in the program shall:  
24           a. ~~Provide low phonemic awareness and other dyslexia risk factor screenings for~~  
25           ~~children under seven years of age through a reading program established under~~  
26           ~~subsection 3; Provide~~ screening for low phonemic awareness and other dyslexia  
27           risk factors a universal screening for dyslexia including core components of  
28           phonetic awareness, decoding, and spelling for children under seven years of  
29           age which must be ~~provided~~ approved by the superintendent of public instruction  
30           and developed and overseen by staff trained in dyslexia and multisensory  
31           structured language programs characteristics;

- 1           **b.** Include a process to further evaluate identified risk factors;
- 2           **c.** Describe the intervention services for the identified dyslexia risk factors;
- 3           **b.d.** ~~Provide reading intervention services to students identified as having~~  
4           ~~dyslexia~~with dyslexia characteristics;
- 5           **e.e.** Administer assessments, approved by the superintendent of public instruction, to  
6           determine the effectiveness of the ~~program~~intervention services in improving the  
7           reading and learning skills of ~~children enrolled in the program~~the child; and
- 8           **d.f.** Provide professional development on dyslexia ~~identification~~characteristics and  
9           interventions to ~~grant participants~~ appropriate personnel of the school district and  
10          special education unit who serve students in kindergarten through grade three.  
11          Professional development must meet the requirements for continuing education  
12          credits for license renewal.
- 13          4. A school district or special education unit shall provide an assessment under  
14          subdivision a of subsection 3 upon request by a parent, legal guardian, or teacher.
- 15          5. ~~The board of each participating grantee shall report annually to the superintendent of~~  
16          ~~public instruction regarding the operation, results, and effectiveness of the pilot~~  
17          ~~program in a manner prescribed by the superintendent. Before July 1, 2024~~2024, the  
18          superintendent of public instruction shall ~~compile the information and~~provide a report  
19          to the legislative management ~~with a recommendation whether to continue~~regarding  
20          ~~the pilot program beyond the 2022-23 school year~~regarding dyslexia screening and  
21          intervention under this section.

22          **SECTION 2. REPEAL.** Section 15.1-32-25 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.