

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1231**

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 15.1-32-26 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to mandatory dyslexia screening and the dyslexia screening and  
3 intervention program; and to provide for a legislative management report.

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

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

7 **15.1-32-25. ReadingDyslexia screening.**

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

13 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-32-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15 **15.1-32-26. Dyslexia screening and intervention –Pilot program - Report to legislative**  
16 **management - Professional development.**

17 1. For purposes of this section:

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

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

