AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:7.2(A)(8)(a)(iii), 392.1(D), and 2112(Section heading), to enact Part VI-B of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:392.11 through 392.13, and 3996(B)(75), and to repeal R.S. 17:7(11), 392.1(B)(2)(a) and (3) and (F), 392.2, and 2112(A)(2) and (B), relative to the screening of students; to provide for screening with respect to dyslexia; to require the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt related rules; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:7.2(A)(8)(a)(iii), 392.1(D), and 2112(Section heading) are hereby amended and reenacted and Part VI-B of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:392.11 through 392.13, and 3996(B)(75) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§7.2. Approved teacher education programs

A. In carrying out its responsibility to prescribe the qualifications and provide for the certification of teachers under authority of R.S. 17:7(6), the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, subject to the constitutional power and authority of the Board of Regents, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and
Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, shall establish qualifications and requirements for the approval of teacher education programs from which graduates may be certified. The qualifications and requirements established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for an approved teacher education program shall include but not be limited to the following:

*(8)(a)* That the program include no less than three credit hours on teaching students with dyslexia within the existing credit hour requirements. The coursework shall include but need not be limited to the following:

**(iii)** An introduction to the process of becoming a dyslexia practitioner or dyslexia therapist, pursuant to R.S. 17:392.2, R.S. 17:392.12.

§392.1. Screening and intervention; purpose; applicability; city and parish school system; duties

D. Children in need of services and/or assistance shall have it provided to them. Services for disorders shall be provided in accordance with R.S. 17:7(11). Children who are referred for further evaluation shall be provided further evaluation in accordance with Chapter 8 of this Title. Children who are in need of assistance shall have it provided to them in accordance with this Part.

PART VI-B. DYSLEXIA

§392.11. Dyslexia; screening and reporting

A. As used in this Part:

(1) "Dyslexia" means an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader, most commonly caused by a difficulty in phonological processing, which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, and spell.
"Phonological processing" means the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken and written language.

B.(1) The state Department of Education shall select a dyslexia screener with an area under the curve of 0.80 or above and provide the screener, at no cost, to each public school. The dyslexia screener shall be administered to each student by a classroom teacher in the second half of kindergarten or upon request of a teacher or a parent or legal guardian. This screener shall not be a progress monitoring tool but shall:

(a) Be developed solely for dyslexia.

(b) Be evidence-based with proven, published psychometric validity.

(c) Be used for the sole purpose of determining whether a student is at-risk for dyslexia.

(2) If the results of such screening indicate that a student is at risk for dyslexia, the parent or guardian shall be notified within thirty days of the results of the screening.

(3) The implementation of the provisions of this Subsection shall be subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature for this purpose.

C.(1) Each public school governing authority shall submit a report to the state Department of Education by December fifteenth annually relative to the occurrence of dyslexia. The report shall include numbers of students of all grade levels identified as dyslexic, either pursuant to the provisions of this Section or by any other means, and shall include, per grade, all of the following:

(a) For students identified as dyslexic through a Section 504 Plan:

(i) The number initially identified during the preceding school year.

(ii) The total number.

(b) For students with an Individualized Education Plan identified as having a specific learning disability, dyslexia:

(i) The number initially identified during the preceding school year.

(ii) The total number.
(2) The state Department of Education shall compile the reports received pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection and report such data to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education no later than March first annually.

(3) Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, if the number of students in a grade level identified as dyslexic is not zero and not more than ten, the report shall not indicate an exact number but shall indicate that there are fewer than eleven students in the grade identified as dyslexic.

§392.12. Dyslexia practitioner; dyslexia therapist; ancillary certificates

A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop the criteria whereby a teacher may be issued a dyslexia practitioner ancillary certificate or a dyslexia therapist ancillary certificate.

B. In addition to any other criteria established by the board, in order to be issued an ancillary certificate pursuant to this Section, a teacher shall:

(1) Hold a valid Louisiana teaching certificate.

(2) Demonstrate completion of a multisensory structured language training program accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting organization, which shall include:

(a) For the dyslexia practitioner ancillary certificate, forty-five hours of coursework and sixty hours of clinical work that is observed and monitored by a qualified professional.

(b) For the dyslexia therapist ancillary certificate, two hundred hours of coursework and seven hundred hours of clinical work that is observed and monitored by a qualified professional.

(3) Pass a multisensory structured language education-related competency examination that is administered by a nationally recognized professional organization that issues national certifications.
§392.13. Administrative rules

The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this Part in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

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§2112. Testing pupils' sight and hearing; testing for dyslexia; notice to parent or tutor; report to state superintendent

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§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

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B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

* * *

(75) Dyslexia screening and reporting, R.S. 17:392.11.

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Section 2. R.S. 17:7(11), 392.1(B)(2)(a) and (3) and (F), 392.2, and 2112(A)(2) and (B) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________________

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.