

SENATE BILL NO. 336

BY SENATOR PRESSLY AND REPRESENTATIVES CARVER, CHASSION, DAVIS,
EDMONSTON, FREIBERG, JACKSON, LAFLEUR, JACOB
LANDRY, MELERINE, PHELPS, SCHLEGEL, STAGNI, TAYLOR
AND YOUNG

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:392.11(B) and (C) and to enact R.S. 17:392.11(D), relative
3 to the screening and diagnosis of students; to provide for screening and diagnosis
4 with respect to dyslexia; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:392.11(B) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
7 17:392.11(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §392.11. Dyslexia; screening, diagnosis, and reporting

9 * * *

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

16 (a) Be developed solely for dyslexia.

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

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

20 (2) If the results of such screening indicate that a student is at risk for
21 dyslexia, the parent or legal guardian shall be notified within thirty days of the
22 results of the screening, and, if requested by the parent or legal guardian, a core
23 assessment for the diagnosis of dyslexia shall be administered as provided in

1 Subsection C of this Section.

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

4 C.(1) The parent may select either the school or a vendor or professional
5 approved by the department to administer the core assessment. The
6 administrator of the core assessment, in order to determine whether the student
7 has dyslexia, shall determine through history, observation, and psychometric
8 assessment if there are unexpected difficulties in reading and associated
9 linguistic problems at the level of phonological processing that are unrelated to
10 the student's intelligence, age, and grade level. The core assessment shall not
11 be based on a single test score or specific number of characteristics and shall
12 include all of the following:

13 (a) Tests of language, particularly phonemic assessment, real words and
14 pseudowords, oral reading fluency, and intellectual ability.

15 (b) An academic performance review.

16 (c) An interview with the student's parent or legal guardian.

17 (2) The department shall do the following in accordance with rules that
18 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt for such
19 purposes:

20 (a) Establish qualifications for vendors and professionals who may
21 administer the core assessment as provided in this Subsection and provide a
22 process for their approval.

23 (b) Establish a payment amount and provide for reimbursement for the
24 administration of the core assessment.

25 (3) If the core assessment is administered by the school, the department
26 shall reimburse the school for the cost of the assessment. If the core assessment
27 is administered by an approved vendor or professional, the department shall
28 reimburse the parent or legal guardian for the cost of the assessment. The
29 reimbursement amount shall not exceed the payment amount established in
30 accordance with Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.

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

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

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

8 (ii) The total number.

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

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

12 (ii) The total number.

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

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

21 Section 2. Implementation of R.S. 17:392.11(B) and (C) as amended and reenacted
22 in this Act is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature for those purposes.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____