

P.L.2013, CHAPTER 210, *approved January 17, 2014*
Senate, No. 2442 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning reading disabilities among public school
2 students and supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 ²1. As used in this act:

9 “Potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities”
10 means indicators that include, but shall not be limited to, difficulty
11 in acquiring language skills; inability to comprehend oral or written
12 language; difficulty in rhyming words; difficulty in naming letters,
13 recognizing letters, matching letters to sounds, and blending sounds
14 when speaking and reading words; difficulty recognizing and
15 remembering sight words; consistent transposition of number
16 sequences, letter reversals, inversions, and substitutions; and
17 trouble in replication of content.²

18

19 ²**[1]** 2.² a. The Commissioner of Education shall distribute to
20 each board of education information on screening instruments
21 available to identify students who ²**[exhibit]** possess one or more²
22 potential indicators of dyslexia ²**[and]** or² other reading disabilities
23 pursuant to section ²**[2]** 3² of this act. The commissioner shall
24 provide information on the screening instruments appropriate for
25 kindergarten ²**[and first]** through second² grade¹ students and on
26 screening instruments that may be suitably used for older students.
27 A board of education shall select and implement age-appropriate
28 screening instruments for the early diagnosis of dyslexia and other
29 reading disabilities.

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31 b. The commissioner shall develop and distribute to each board
32 of education guidance on appropriate intervention strategies for
33 students diagnosed with dyslexia or other reading disabilities.

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35 ²**[2]** 3.² a. A board of education shall ensure that each
36 ¹**[kindergarten]**¹ student enrolled in the school district ²who has
exhibited one or more potential indicators of dyslexia or other

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted June 20, 2013.

²Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted November 18, 2013.

1 reading disabilities² is screened for dyslexia and other reading
 2 disabilities using a screening instrument selected pursuant to section
 3 ²[1] 2² of this act ¹no later than the student's completion of the
 4 first ²semester of the second² grade¹.

5 b. In the event that a student who would have been enrolled in
 6 kindergarten ¹or ²[the first]² grade¹ ²one or two² during or after the
 7 ²[2013-2014] 2014-2015² school year enrolls in the district in
 8 ²kindergarten or² grades ²[¹[one] two¹] one² through six ²[on]
 9 during² or after the ²[effective date of this act] 2015-2016 school
 10 year² and has no record of being previously screened for dyslexia or
 11 other reading disabilities pursuant to this act, the board of education
 12 shall ensure that the newly-enrolled student is screened for dyslexia
 13 and other reading disabilities using a screening instrument selected
 14 pursuant to section ²[1] 2² of this act ²at the same time other
 15 students enrolled in the student's grade are screened for dyslexia
 16 and other reading disabilities or, if other students enrolled in the
 17 student's grade have previously been screened, within 90 calendar
 18 days of the date the student is enrolled in the district².

19 c. The screening shall be administered by a teacher or other
 20 teaching staff member properly trained in the screening process for
 21 dyslexia and other reading disabilities.
 22

23 ²[3] 4² In the event that a student is determined through the
 24 screening conducted pursuant to section ²[2] 3² of this act to
 25 ²[exhibit] possess one or more² potential indicators of dyslexia or
 26 other reading ²[disability] disabilities², the board of education shall
 27 ensure that the student receives a comprehensive assessment for the
 28 learning disorder. In the event that a diagnosis ²of dyslexia or other
 29 reading disability² is confirmed ²by the comprehensive assessment²,
 30 the board of education shall provide appropriate ²evidence-based²
 31 intervention strategies to the student, including intense instruction
 32 on phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency, vocabulary, and
 33 reading comprehension.
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35 ²[4] 5² This act shall take effect immediately and shall first
 36 apply to the ²[2013-2014] 2014-2015² school year ²; provided,
 37 however, that the Commissioner of Education shall take any
 38 anticipatory actions that the commissioner determines to be
 39 necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this act prior
 40 to the 2014-2015 school year².

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45 Requires certain public school students to be screened for
 46 dyslexia and other reading disabilities.