

Supporting Struggling Readers: Dyslexia Screening & Intervention Protocol

In accordance with **New Jersey's Dyslexia Legislation**, Hamilton Township School District has established a **Reading Disabilities Advisory Committee (RDAC)**. This committee regularly reviews and updates our district's approach to supporting students with reading difficulties, including dyslexia, ensuring alignment with state laws and best practices.

Our protocol continues to evolve based on new state guidance, staff training, data review, and classroom feedback.

Early Identification & Screening

We are committed to identifying students who may be struggling with reading as early as possible. Screening helps us provide the proper support when it matters most.

Kindergarten

- Teachers monitor and collect data on:
 - Letter and sound recognition
 - High-frequency word recognition
 - Benchmark reading levels

First Grade

- Teachers monitor:
 - High-frequency words
 - Benchmark reading levels
 - All first-grade students will participate in a **universal screening** by the end of the year.
 - The **Humanities Coach** oversees this screening, which looks for early signs of reading difficulties, including dyslexia.
 - Parents will receive a **DIBELS report** explaining their child's assessment results.
 - Based on the results, teachers will provide **targeted interventions** to support each child's needs.
 - Students identified as needing additional support **may** be placed in **Basic Skills Instruction (BSI)** or receive **extra help** from the Reading Specialist.
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Grades 2–5

- All students are assessed for their **benchmark reading levels**.
 - Students who show signs of a reading disability and have not been screened before will be screened within **30 days** of being referred.
 - Teachers will present a variety of data (e.g., reading levels, writing samples, spelling inventories) to determine the need for screening.
 - If appropriate, the **Humanities Coach** will administer the **DIBELS assessment to the student**.
 - A letter will be sent home with the results of the screening.
 - The Reading Specialist will also review all relevant data and read with the student.
 - Teachers will receive the results and guidance on **targeted interventions** to support their classroom.
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Grade 6

- If a student shows signs of a reading disability and has not previously been screened, they will be screened within **30 days** of the concern being raised.
 - The **Instructional Coach** will collect and review multiple data points and administer the **DIBELS** if screening is warranted.
 - Parents will be informed in writing before screening and invited to a meeting to review the results.
 - Copies of correspondence will be placed in the student's school records.
 - The Instructional Coach will maintain detailed records of screening and follow-up actions.
 - Teachers will receive intervention plans tailored to each student's needs.
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Intervention Services

Students who require support will receive **evidence-based interventions** targeted to their needs. This may include intensive instruction in:

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Reading comprehension

These services aim to build foundational literacy skills and support student success in the classroom.

Staff Training

As required by **New Jersey law**, all relevant staff receive **at least 2 hours of professional development** each year focused on:

- Identifying reading disabilities, including dyslexia
- Effective screening practices
- Intervention strategies
- Classroom accommodations
- Assistive technology for reading support

Required participants include:

- K–3 general education teachers
- Special education teachers
- Basic skills intervention teachers
- ESL teachers
- Reading Specialists
- Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultants
- Speech-language specialists

Other staff, as available, are also encouraged to attend training:

- PreK and grades 4–8 general education teachers
 - Paraprofessionals
 - Child Study Team members
 - School administrators
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More Information

For additional details, please review the NJDOE information on [Dyslexia](#), which offers valuable resources for families and educators.

If you have questions about your child's reading development or the district's dyslexia protocol, please contact your child's teacher, Reading Specialist, or school administrator.