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S.B. 102
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Brenner and Lehner

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Summary

- Establishes the Dyslexia Screening Program to require all public schools to conduct screenings of all children six years old or younger and provide intervention services for those displaying risk factors for dyslexia.
- Requires districts and schools to provide parents and guardians of identified children with information about dyslexia, recommended multisensory treatments, and the available intervention services and to offer services subject to their consent.
- Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to submit a report to the General Assembly, by December 31, 2020, detailing the Superintendent's evaluation of the results of the program and any legislative recommendations for it.
- Repeals the law regarding the dyslexia screening pilot project, which operated from 2012 to 2015.

Detailed Analysis

Dyslexia screening program

The bill creates the Dyslexia Screening Program to identify and support children exhibiting signs of dyslexia. Under the program, all public schools serving children with disabilities must conduct dyslexia screenings of all children six years old or younger and provide reading intervention services to those displaying risk factors for that learning disability.

The bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish guidelines and procedures for the program, in conjunction with the International Dyslexia Association or any other nationally recognized organization that specializes in multisensory structured language programs for the treatment of dyslexia. Each school district must do the following:

1. For all children identified as being at risk, notify the child's parents or guardians and state that the child is eligible to receive reading intervention services;

2. Obtain written consent from parents or guardians of identified children stating that their child may participate in intervention services. If given, the statements under the bill must indicate that their consent is given “voluntarily and knowingly.”
3. Provide parents or guardians of identified children with information about dyslexia, including information about the learning disability, recommended multisensory treatments, and available intervention services; and
4. Conduct assessments provided by the Department of Education to determine if intervention services are improving participating students' reading and learning.

Under the bill, a district or school may partner with a regional library or library system to implement dyslexia screening and intervention programming.¹

Reporting requirements

The bill requires each district and school to report annually to the state Superintendent data about the services and results of the program in a manner determined by the Superintendent. Additionally, by December 31, 2020, the Superintendent must submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the Superintendent’s evaluation of the results of the program and any legislative recommendations for the program.

Dyslexia pilot project repealed

The bill repeals law enacted in 2012 that provided for a dyslexia pilot project. Under that law, beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the state Superintendent was required to establish a pilot project to operate for three full school years to provide early screening and intervention services for children exhibiting risk factors for dyslexia. The Superintendent was required to identify at least three school districts to participate in the pilot, one in an urban area, one in a suburban area, and one in a rural area. Under the pilot, the Superintendent was required to submit a report to the General Assembly at the end of the three-year period containing the Superintendent’s evaluation of the pilot project as well as legislative recommendations whether to continue, expand, or make changes to the pilot.

The stated goal of the pilot project was to evaluate the effectiveness of early screening and reading assistance programs for children at risk of reading failure, including those students exhibiting risk factors associated with dyslexia and to evaluate whether those programs could reduce special education costs.² The dyslexia pilot project ended with the 2014-2015 school year.

History

Action	Date
Introduced	03-12-19

S0102-I-133/ar

¹ New R.C. 3323.25, enacted by the bill.

² Existing R.C. 3323.25, repealed by the bill.