**§4710-B. Dyslexia screening**

**1. Definitions.**  As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Alphabet knowledge" means the ability to name, distinguish shapes of, write and identify the sounds of the letters of the alphabet. [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Decoding" means the ability to apply knowledge of letter-sound relationships. [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

C. "Dyslexia" means a condition that is neurological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities that typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and in relation to the provision of effective classroom instruction; the secondary consequences of dyslexia may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

D. "Encoding" means the ability to put ideas into messages to be delivered to and understood by other people. [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

E. "Phonological and phonemic awareness" means awareness of the phonological structure of words. [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

F. "Rapid naming" means the ability to connect visual and verbal information by giving appropriate names to common objects, colors, letters and digits. [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

G. "Sound-symbol recognition" means the ability to understand the relationship between symbols or combinations of symbols and the sounds they make. [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

**2. Dyslexia screening.**  Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, a school administrative unit shall screen for dyslexia students from kindergarten to grade 2 who have difficulty, as identified by a classroom teacher, in an area described in paragraphs A to F. The screening of a student must include an examination of the student's:

A. Phonological and phonemic awareness; [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

B. Sound-symbol recognition; [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

C. Alphabet knowledge; [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

D. Decoding skills; [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

E. Rapid naming skills; and [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

F. Encoding skills. [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

**3. Dyslexia coordinator.**  There is created within the department the position of dyslexia coordinator to assist the department in complying with the provisions of this section and the general education interventions required in the department's special education rules as they pertain to students struggling with reading or showing early indicators of reading difficulty. The dyslexia coordinator must have a background in reading and language difficulties, including dyslexia, and in language and literacy. The dyslexia coordinator shall develop before March 1, 2016 and update annually thereafter a plan that:

A. Implements dyslexia awareness training for teachers; [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

B. Implements professional development in evidence-based screening practices; and [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

C. Identifies needs of school administrative units for implementing evidence-based practices and response to scientific, research-based intervention strategies for reading and language-based learning difficulties. [PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 338, §1 (NEW).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025
 . The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.