

**North Carolina Branch
International Dyslexia Association
February, 2018**

Policy, Legislative and Related Resources

This listing contains links to key policy, legislative and related documents and resources. It is neither intended to be all inclusive or exhaustive, but simply provide a starting place for understanding current educational issues particularly those relevant to dyslexia.

Definition of Dyslexia:

“Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.”

This definition was adopted by the IDA Board of Directors, Nov. 12, 2002. This Definition is also used by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and is included in the North Carolina Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities.

United States Department of Education

<https://www.ed.gov/>

This federal site provides information on multiple topics and issues related to education that can be searched for particular areas of interest (e.g., dyslexia).

General Information

Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/>

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children.

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/?src=policy-page>

Every Student Succeeds Act

<https://www.ed.gov/essa?src=policy>

Reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation’s national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students.

Special Education and Rehabilitation Services: Laws and Guidance

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/?src=policy-page>

Searchable base for OSEP Policy (Dear Colleague Letters Memos, FAQ, Key Policy Letters, Guidance)

Ideas That Work: preparing Children and Youth with Disabilities for Success

<https://ccrs.osepideasthatwork.org>

This site provides information and resources for teachers and families on academic, social, emotional and behavioral skills.

Dyslexia Information

Dyslexia Guidance 10/15 by Michael Yudin (OSEP)

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/guidance-on-dyslexia-10-2015.pdf>

Document provides guidance and assurance that terminology of dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia can be used in public schools and the of the importance of addressing the unique educational needs of children with specific learning disabilities resulting from dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia during IEP Team meetings and other meetings with parents under IDEA.

LD and ADHD Awareness Month by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-secretary-education-arne-duncan-issues-statement-learning-disabilities-dyslexia-and-attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder-awareness-month>

Statement on Learning Disabilities; Dyslexia; and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Awareness Month.

OSEP Letter by R. Ryder to K. Unnerstall (Decoding Dyslexia) 4/16

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/oseplettertounnerstall4-25-16dyslexia.pdf>

Use of terms dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia in eligibility and evaluation determination.

Twice Exceptional: Gifted and LD Information

OSEP Memo -M. Musgrove 4/15

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/041715gilmantwiceevceptional2q2015.pdf>

OSEP Letter-M. Musgrove to to J. Delisle 12/13

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/13-008520r-sc-delisle-twiceexceptional.pdf>

State of North Carolina

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/>

This state based site provides information on multiple topics and issues related to North Carolina Public schools that can be searched for particular areas of interest.

North Carolina Public Schools

Multi-Tiered System of Support- MTSS-NC Dept. of Public Instruction

<http://mtss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/>

Information on MTSS: See left hand column for SLD Eligibility including Fact Sheets and Associated Webinars.

Read to Achieve

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/k-3literacy/achieve/>

Information on state's initiative to ensure all students read by third grade.

Exceptional Children's Division

This site provides information related to policies and procedures for children with disabilities.

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/>

Policies and Procedures

NC Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities (Amended 2014)

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/policies/nc-policies-governing-services-for-children-with-disabilities/policies-children-disabilities.pdf>

Document provides policies and procedures for serving all students with disabilities. There are specific sections related to students with learning disabilities. In addition to the main document, there have been two changes- see below.

Addendum (2/16): The SLD section has been revised and the new policy will be in full effect by 2020. In the link below you will find the Addendum, links to webinars and related Fact Sheets.

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/disability-resources/specific-learning-disabilities/sld-policy-addendum-and-resources>.

Executive Summary Attachment #2 with Technical Corrections: changes related to HB 149 (8/17) and this included a definition of dyslexia.

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/disability-resources/specific-learning-disabilities/dyslexia-and-dyscalculia>

Parent Rights and Responsibilities

Parents Rights and Responsibilities-NC Notice of Procedural Safeguards in Special Education (7/16)

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/parent-resources/ecparenthandbook.pdf>

This document addresses specific rights and responsibilities of parents related to Special Education services.

Specific Learning Disability (SLD) Resources

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/disability-resources/specific-learning-disabilities>

In the Exceptional Children section, you will see Disability Resources at the top. There is a drop-down tab for section for Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) – Specific Learning Disability Resources- The direct link is below. Review left hand column for detailed information and select topic of interest – Specific Learning Disability (SLD), Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS), LD and ADHD Resources, Dyslexia and Dyscalculia, SLD Policy Addendum and Resources, Evidence Based Practices, Memos and Communications.

State Educational Assistance Authority

<http://www.ncseaa.edu/K-12Grants.htm>

Some families may be eligible for help to pay for the cost of aspects of private school or home school education expenses through the Opportunity Scholarship Program, the Disabilities Grant Awards, or the 2018 Educational Savings Accounts.

Dyslexia

Dyslexia and Dyscalculia Resources

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/disability-resources/specific-learning-disabilities/dyslexia-and-dyscalculia>

Information and resources available on the EC division website specific to Dyslexia and Dyscalculia including:

Definition

The Dyslexia Topic Brief (11/15)

Dyslexia and Dyscalculia Report on Statewide Efforts (3/17)

Links to the USDOE Dyslexia Guidance Memo and link to the International Dyslexia Association Fact Sheets and other dyslexia resources.

Dyslexia Law: HB149

<http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/SessionLaws/HTML/2017-2018/SL2017-127.html>

An Act to require the State Board of Education and Local Boards of Education to develop tools to ensure identification of students with dyslexia and dyscalculia-signed by the Governor 7/2017.

Information and Advocacy

Other organizational or institutional sites provide additional information and resources related to learning disabilities and dyslexia.

International Dyslexia Association

<https://dyslexiaida.org/>

The IDA site has comprehensive information on definitions and resources for individuals with dyslexia, their parents, educators and other supporting professionals. Some highlights of key resources include Definition of Dyslexia, *The IDA Dyslexia Handbook: What Every Family Should Know*, *Dyslexia in the Classroom*, *Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading-Classroom Educators and Dyslexia Specialists versions*, *Fact Sheets* <https://dyslexiaida.org/fact-sheets/> (on a variety of topics), *Infographics* (variety of topics), Directory of Providers and other resources.

Decoding Dyslexia

<http://www.decodingdyslexia.net/>

North Carolina Branch

<http://www.decodingdyslexianc.org/>

Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA)

<https://ldaamerica.org/>

LDOnline

<http://www.ldonline.org/index.php>

The Educator Guide to LD and ADHD.

Dyslexia Help at University of Michigan

<http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/>

Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity

<http://dyslexia.yale.edu/>

Exceptional Children's Assistance Center-ECAC

<http://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/>

ECAC is a private, non-profit organization providing information and resources for individuals with disabilities, including learning disabilities, their families, educators and other support professionals. ECAC's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) is funded through the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. ECAC has online resources, regional outreach programs and also provides trainings across the state. There is information on advocacy, understanding educational rights, IEP and 504 Plans, and topic specific information. Enter Search at the top of page for specific information needs.

WrightsLaw

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/>

Excellent resources on educational law, special educational law, advocacy, assessment, intervention and learning. In addition to the general information go to the Home Page and on the left side scroll down topics. Select Reading for information specific to reading, writing and dyslexia.