

1 H.375

2 Introduced by Representative Leffler of Enosburgh

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; dyslexia; screening

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that
7 students in public schools be screened for dyslexia.

8 An act relating to screening students for dyslexia

9 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

10 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. chapter 1, subchapter 10 is added to read:

11 Subchapter 10. Dyslexia

12 § 141. DYSLEXIA SCREENING

13 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

14 (1) “Dyslexia” means a specific learning disability that is neurological
15 in origin, characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition
16 and by poor spelling and decoding abilities, that typically results from a deficit
17 in the phonological component of language and that is often unexpected in
18 relation to other cognitive abilities. Secondary consequences may include
19 problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can
20 impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

1 (2) “Research-based methods of instruction” means evidence-based,
2 specialized reading, writing, and spelling instruction that is multisensory in
3 nature, equipping students to simultaneously use multiple senses, including
4 vision, hearing, touch, and movement. Research-based methods of instruction
5 employ direct instruction of systematic and cumulative objectives, with the
6 sequence beginning with the student’s easiest and most basic elements and
7 progressing methodically to more difficult material, as indicated by systematic
8 progress monitoring. Each step is built on those steps previously learned.
9 Components of research-based methods of instruction include instruction
10 targeting phonological awareness, sound symbol association, syllable structure,
11 morphology, syntax, and semantics.

12 (b) Early screening for markers of dyslexia.

13 (1) Students enrolled in public schools in Vermont shall be screened for
14 markers of dyslexia:

15 (A) during the fall semester of kindergarten; and

16 (B) during the spring semester of kindergarten, first grade, and
17 second grade if a student does not meet the expected literacy standards for
18 those grades.

19 (2) In addition to these screening times, a student shall be screened for
20 markers of dyslexia upon the request of the student’s parent, guardian, teacher,
21 counselor, or school psychologist to determine if the student qualifies for the

1 school's multiple tiered system of supports or response to intervention
2 services.

3 (c) Students identified with dyslexia. If a student is identified as having
4 dyslexia by the school, the school shall:

5 (1) notify the student's parent or guardian;

6 (2) provide the student's parent or guardian with information and
7 resource material about dyslexia;

8 (3) provide the student with appropriate research-based methods of
9 instruction; and

10 (4) monitor the student's progress.

11 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATES

12 This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.