

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 129

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 13, 2012

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NELSON T. ALBANO

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman MATTHEW W. MILAM

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Urges State Board of Education to develop endorsement to instructional certificate for teachers of students with dyslexia.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/14/2012)

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the State Board of Education to
2 develop an endorsement for teachers of students with dyslexia.
3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability
5 characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word
6 recognition and poor spelling and decoding abilities, resulting in
7 core difficulties with reading, writing, and spelling, and sometimes
8 spoken language; and
- 9 **WHEREAS**, An estimated 15-20% of individuals have language-based
10 learning difficulties, and an estimated 70-85% of students who are
11 placed in special education for a learning disability have dyslexia,
12 making it the most prevalent learning disability in children; and
- 13 **WHEREAS**, Dyslexia affects male and female students alike and occurs
14 in individuals of all backgrounds and intellectual levels; and
- 15 **WHEREAS**, All children need basic reading and writing abilities to
16 succeed throughout their lives, and children with dyslexia can learn
17 successfully with appropriate teaching methods; and
- 18 **WHEREAS**, Children with untreated dyslexia can suffer devastating
19 personal consequences, as it can cause significant stress and poor
20 self-image, discourage students from continuing in school, and lead
21 to adults unable to achieve at their fullest potential; and
- 22 **WHEREAS**, Early identification, support, and sustained targeted
23 services for students with dyslexia are of the utmost importance to
24 increase academic success and self-esteem; and
- 25 **WHEREAS**, Informed and effective instruction by skilled teachers,
26 especially in the early grades, can prevent or ameliorate the severity
27 of dyslexia and related reading and language problems; and
- 28 **WHEREAS**, Students with dyslexia require appropriate instruction and
29 educational interventions for their specific disability, which can
30 include multisensory structured language techniques or other
31 similar specialized educational programs; and
- 32 **WHEREAS**, Effective educators of students with dyslexia need
33 considerable and specialized knowledge and skills and sufficient
34 training and expertise to recognize early signs of risk and provide
35 successful teaching methods; and
- 36 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey parents of children with dyslexia have
37 advocated for additional training of teachers, principals, and child
38 study team members in order to increase educational services that
39 specifically address dyslexia; and
- 40 **WHEREAS**, A State endorsement to the instructional certificate for
41 teachers who are trained in educating students with dyslexia will
42 help ensure that children in New Jersey who have language-based
43 learning disabilities are identified early and provided with
44 appropriate instructional strategies and educational tools to help
45 them succeed in school and throughout their lives; and
- 46 **WHEREAS**, It is in the public interest of this State to provide children
47 struggling with dyslexia with access to teachers who are
48 specifically trained in instructing dyslexic students and who can

1 help them learn and achieve at their fullest potential; now,
2 therefore,

3

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
5 Jersey:

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7 1. The State Board of Education is urged to develop an
8 endorsement to the instructional certificate for teachers of students
9 with dyslexia, and to establish eligibility and training requirements
10 for the endorsement specific to the needs of students with dyslexia.
11 In developing the endorsement and its eligibility and training
12 requirements, the State Board of Education is encouraged to review
13 and consider the recommendations contained in the International
14 Dyslexia Association's *Knowledge and Practice Standards for*
15 *Teachers of Reading* (2010), and requirements developed by other
16 states, such as Texas, for certification of individuals who work with
17 students who have dyslexia.

18

19 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
20 Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof,
21 shall be transmitted to each member of the State Board of
22 Education.

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STATEMENT

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27 This resolution urges the State Board of Education to develop an
28 endorsement to the instructional certificate for teachers of students
29 with dyslexia and to establish eligibility and training requirements
30 for the endorsement. The resolution encourages the board, in
31 developing the endorsement and its eligibility and training
32 requirements, to consider the recommendations contained in the
33 International Dyslexia Association's 2010 publication *Knowledge*
34 *and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading*, as well as
35 requirements developed by other states, such as Texas, for
36 certification of individuals who work with students who have
37 dyslexia.

38

39 Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability that causes core
40 difficulties with reading, writing, and spelling. Dyslexia affects
41 students of all backgrounds and intellectual levels and is the most
42 common learning disability in children. Students with dyslexia can
43 effectively learn and succeed with appropriate educational
44 interventions and teaching methods for their specific learning
45 disability. Effective educators of students with dyslexia need
46 considerable knowledge, skills, training, and expertise. A State
47 endorsement to the instructional certificate for teachers of students
48 with dyslexia will help ensure that children in New Jersey who
struggle with this learning disability will have access to teachers

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- 1 who are specifically trained in appropriate instructional methods to
- 2 help them learn and achieve at their fullest potential.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3605

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 13, 2012

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NELSON T. ALBANO

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman MATTHEW W. MILAM

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Requires all public school kindergarten students to be screened for dyslexia and other reading disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/14/2012)

1 AN ACT concerning reading disabilities among public school
2 students and supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7

8 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall distribute to each
9 board of education information on screening instruments available
10 to identify students who exhibit potential indicators of dyslexia and
11 other reading disabilities pursuant to section 2 of this act. The
12 commissioner shall provide information on the screening
13 instruments appropriate for kindergarten students and on screening
14 instruments that may be suitably used for older students. A board
15 of education shall select and implement age-appropriate screening
16 instruments for the early diagnosis of dyslexia and other reading
17 disabilities.

18 b. The commissioner shall develop and distribute to each board
19 of education guidance on appropriate intervention strategies for
20 students diagnosed with dyslexia or other reading disabilities.

21

22 2. a. A board of education shall ensure that each kindergarten
23 student enrolled in the school district is screened for dyslexia and
24 other reading disabilities using a screening instrument selected
25 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

26 b. In the event that a student who would have been enrolled in
27 kindergarten during or after the 2013-2014 school year enrolls in
28 the district in grades one through six on or after the effective date of
29 this act and has no record of being previously screened for dyslexia
30 or other reading disabilities pursuant to this act, the board of
31 education shall ensure that the newly-enrolled student is screened
32 for dyslexia and other reading disabilities using a screening
33 instrument selected pursuant to section 1 of this act.

34 c. The screening shall be administered by a teacher or other
35 teaching staff member properly trained in the screening process for
36 dyslexia and other reading disabilities.

37

38 3. In the event that a student is determined through the
39 screening conducted pursuant to section 2 of this act to exhibit
40 potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disability, the board
41 of education shall ensure that the student receives a comprehensive
42 assessment for the learning disorder. In the event that a diagnosis is
43 confirmed, the board of education shall provide appropriate
44 intervention strategies to the student, including intense instruction
45 on phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency, vocabulary, and
46 reading comprehension.

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
2 the 2013-2014 school year.

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STATEMENT

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7 Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education must distribute to
8 each board of education information on screening instruments
9 available to identify students who exhibit potential indicators of
10 dyslexia and other reading disabilities. The commissioner must
11 also develop and distribute to each board of education guidance on
12 appropriate intervention strategies for students diagnosed with
13 dyslexia or other reading disabilities.

14 The bill requires a board of education to screen each
15 kindergarten student enrolled in the school district for dyslexia and
16 other reading disabilities. Screening will also be required for a
17 student who would have been enrolled in kindergarten during or
18 after the 2013-2014 school year who initially enrolls in the district
19 in grades one through six when there is no record of prior
20 screening. The bill provides that the screening must be
21 administered by a teacher or other teaching staff member properly
22 trained in the screening process for dyslexia and other reading
23 disabilities.

24 The bill also requires a board of education to ensure that each
25 student who is determined through the screening to exhibit potential
26 indicators of dyslexia or other reading disability is provided with a
27 comprehensive assessment for the learning disorders. In the event
28 that a diagnosis is confirmed, the board of education must provide
29 appropriate intervention strategies to the student, including intense
30 instruction on phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency,
31 vocabulary and reading comprehension. Early intervention for a
32 student with dyslexia or other reading disability is critical for the
33 student's academic success.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3606

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 13, 2012

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NELSON T. ALBANO

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman MATTHEW W. MILAM

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Requires 20 hours of professional development requirement for public school teachers to be devoted to reading disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/14/2012)

1 AN ACT concerning professional development for public school
2 teachers and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey*

7

8 1. The State Board of Education shall, as part of the
9 professional development requirement established by the State
10 board for public school teachers, require each public school teacher
11 to complete at least 20 hours of professional development
12 instruction on the screening, intervention, accommodation, and use
13 of technology for students with reading disabilities, including
14 dyslexia, during each five-year, 100-hour professional development
15 period.

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17 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be
18 applicable to the professional development period beginning on
19 September 1, 2015.

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STATEMENT

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24 State Board of Education regulations at N.J.A.C.6A:9-15.2(a)
25 require all active teachers in a school district to complete 100 hours
26 of approved professional development every five years. This bill
27 requires that at least 20 hours, or one-fifth, of that professional
28 development be composed of instruction on the screening,
29 intervention, accommodation, and use of technology for students
30 with reading disabilities, including dyslexia, during each five-year
31 professional development period.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3607

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 13, 2012

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NELSON T. ALBANO

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman MATTHEW W. MILAM

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOE provide professional development opportunities related to reading disabilities to school district personnel.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/14/2012)

1 AN ACT requiring professional development opportunities related to
2 reading disabilities and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of
3 the New Jersey Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. Beginning in the first full school year following the effective
9 date of this act, the Department of Education shall provide
10 professional development opportunities related to reading
11 disabilities, including dyslexia, to school district personnel. The
12 professional development shall be provided to general education,
13 special education, and English as a second language teachers,
14 instructional support staff, administrators, supervisors, child study
15 team members, and speech and language specialists. The
16 professional development opportunities shall be designed to account
17 for the various manners in which different school district personnel
18 interact with, or develop instructional programs for, students with
19 reading disabilities.

20

21 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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26 This bill requires that the Department of Education provide
27 professional development opportunities related to reading
28 disabilities, including dyslexia, to a variety of school district
29 personnel. The professional development opportunities would be
30 designed to account for the various manners in which different
31 school district personnel interact with, and develop instructional
32 programs for, students with reading disabilities.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3608

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 13, 2012

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NELSON T. ALBANO

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman MATTHEW W. MILAM

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Directs State Board of Education to incorporate the International Dyslexia Association's definition of dyslexia into special education regulations.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/14/2012)

1 AN ACT concerning special education and supplementing chapter
2 46 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations
8 that incorporate the International Dyslexia Association's definition
9 of dyslexia into chapter 14 of Title 6A of the New Jersey
10 Administrative Code.

11

12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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17 This bill directs the State Board of Education to promulgate
18 regulations that incorporate the International Dyslexia Association's
19 (IDA) definition of dyslexia into chapter 14 of Title 6A of the New
20 Jersey Administrative Code, which outlines the requirements for the
21 provision of special education programs and services.

22 Currently, State board regulations at N.J.A.C.6A:14-3.5c-12 list
23 dyslexia as one of the specific learning disabilities that may impair
24 a person's ability to understand or use language, or perform
25 mathematical calculations. However, the regulations do not
26 specifically define dyslexia.

27 Under the bill, the State Board of Education would incorporate
28 the IDA definition which reads as follows:

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

ASSEMBLY, No. 3609

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 13, 2012

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NELSON T. ALBANO

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman MATTHEW W. MILAM

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Requires that candidates for certain teaching certificates, in addition to existing requirements, also pass a written test on the foundations of teaching reading and diagnosing reading difficulties.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/14/2012)

1 AN ACT concerning teacher certification and supplementing chapter
2 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. Effective January 1, 2015, in addition to any other
8 requirements set forth by the State Board of Education, a candidate
9 for an instructional certificate with a preschool through grade three
10 endorsement, an instructional certificate with an elementary school
11 endorsement, or an educational services certificate with a reading
12 specialist endorsement shall pass a written test which includes, at a
13 minimum, the following topics: the foundations of teaching reading;
14 the basic rules of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics of
15 the English language; the diagnosis of reading difficulties; the
16 development of reading comprehension; and reading assessment.

17 b. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules pursuant
18 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
19 1 et seq.), to effectuate the provisions of this act, including any
20 regulations specifying additional topics deemed appropriate for
21 inclusion on the written test required pursuant to subsection a. of
22 this section.

23

24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

25

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27 STATEMENT

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29 This bill would require, effective January 1, 2015, that
30 candidates for a preschool through grade three endorsement, an
31 elementary school endorsement, or a reading specialist
32 endorsement, pass a written test which includes, at a minimum, the
33 following topics: the foundations of teaching reading; the basic
34 rules of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics of the
35 English language; the diagnosis of reading difficulties; the
36 development of reading comprehension; and reading assessment.
37 This requirement would be in addition to any other requirements set
38 by the State Board of Education for receipt of these endorsements.