

By

AN ACT concerning school districts; creating the legislative task force on dyslexia.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the legislative task force on dyslexia. The task force shall advise and make recommendations to the governor, the legislature and the state board of education regarding matters concerning the use of evidence-based practices for students with dyslexia. The work of the task force should be completed by November 1, 2018, and a report prepared and submitted to the governor, the legislature and the state board of education by December 1, 2018.

(b) The recommendations and resource materials shall:

(1) Research and recommend evidence-based reading practices to address dyslexia or characteristics of dyslexia for use by schools;

(2) research and recommend high quality pre-service and in-service professional development activities to address reading difficulties like dyslexia, including identification of dyslexia and effective reading interventions to be used in schools and within degree programs, such as education, reading, special education, speech-language pathology and psychology;

(3) study and examine current state and federal laws and rules and regulations, and the implementation of such laws and rules and regulations that affect students with dyslexia; and

(4) identify valid and reliable screening and evaluation assessments and protocols that can be used and the appropriate personnel to administer such assessments in order to identify children with reading difficulties, such as dyslexia or the characteristics of dyslexia as part of an ongoing reading progress monitoring system, multi-tiered system of supports and child find

special education eligibility for students.

(c) The task force shall consist of 17 members as follows:

(1) Two members of the senate with one member appointed by the president of the senate, and one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

(2) two members of the house of representatives with one member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and one member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives;

(3) two members appointed by the state board of education;

(4) one member shall be a professor employed by a state educational institution with specialized expertise in effective evidence-based reading practices for dyslexia;

(5) two members shall be principals of a public school appointed by the united school administrators of Kansas;

(6) four members shall be the parents of children with a diagnosis of dyslexia appointed by keys for networking, inc., families together, inc. and decoding dyslexia Johnson county;

(7) one member shall be appointed by the Kansas association of special education administrators;

(8) one member shall be a building level reading specialist appointed by the commissioner of education;

(9) one member shall be a licensed psychologist or speech-language pathologist who diagnosis dyslexia as a part of such person's practice; and

(10) one member shall be identified as a nonprofit service provider for children diagnosed with dyslexia.

(d) The state board of education shall designate one of the members appointed by the state board as the chairperson of the legislative task force on dyslexia. The chairperson shall call an organizational meeting of the task force on or before July 15, 2018. At such organizational meeting, the members will elect a vice-chairperson from the membership of the task force. The task force also shall consider dates for future meetings, the agenda for such meetings and the need for electing a facilitator to assist in discussions among the members of the task force. The task force shall meet no more than six times in 2018 and may hold meetings by telephone or video conference, if necessary.

(e) The task force may meet at any time and at any place within the state on the call of the chairperson. A quorum of the task force shall be nine members. All actions of the task force shall be by motion adopted by a majority of those members present when there is a quorum.

(f) If approved by the legislative coordinating council, members of the task force attending meetings authorized by the task force shall be paid amounts for expenses, mileage and subsistence as provided in K.S.A. 75-3223(e), and amendments thereto.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.