

STATE OF NEW YORK

5259

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 8, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. SIMON, GALEF, SIMOTAS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to mandatory early screening for dyslexia

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 319 to
2 read as follows:

3 § 319. Mandatory early screening for dyslexia. 1. All school districts
4 shall be required to conduct full and individual screenings in accord-
5 ance with this section for purposes of early diagnosis, support, inter-
6 vention and accommodation of children with dyslexia and other learning
7 disabilities. For purposes of this section, the term "dyslexia" means a
8 specific learning disorder that is neurological in origin and that is
9 characterized by unexpected difficulties with accurate or fluent word
10 recognition and poor spelling and decoding abilities not consistent with
11 the person's intelligence, motivation, and sensory capabilities, which
12 difficulty typically results from a deficit in the phonological compo-
13 nent of language.

14 2. Mandatory early screening for dyslexia shall be conducted by each
15 school district using a digital assessment tool that includes targeted
16 questions designed to quickly and reliably gather certain relevant func-
17 tional and developmental information from all children described in this
18 subdivision. Mandatory early screening shall commence during pre-
19 kindergarten or kindergarten, whichever is earlier, and shall continue
20 thereafter on an annual basis until such child has successfully
21 completed the second grade.

22 3. Upon completion of the administration of each mandatory early
23 screening, a copy of each early screening report and any other findings
24 shall be given to the parent and/or guardian and teachers and teaching

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD08780-01-9

1 assistants of each child, and the individual designated in subdivision
2 four of this section.

3 4. Each school district shall designate an individual to maintain
4 complete and accurate records, including copies of each early screening
5 report, for all children for the duration of each child's educational
6 pursuit or until such child reaches the age of sixteen, whichever is
7 later. The designated individual shall provide resources and materials
8 to the parent and/or guardian of any child who displays low phonemic
9 awareness and other indications of dyslexia.

10 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.