STATE OF NEW YORK

4341

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 7, 2019

Introduced by Sen. BROOKS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed 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:

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

§ 319. Mandatory early screening for dyslexia. 1. All school districts shall be required to conduct full and individual screenings in accordance with this section for purposes of early identification, support, intervention and accommodation of children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities. For purposes of this section, the term "dyslexia" means a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin and that is characterized by unexpected difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and poor spelling and decoding abilities, which difficulty typically results from a deficit in the phonological component of language and that is inconsistent with the person's intelligence, motivation, and sensory capabilities and the provision of effective instruction.

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

3. Upon completion of the administration of each mandatory early screening, a copy of each early screening report and any other findings 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.

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

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

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.