

STATE OF NEW YORK

2599

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 23, 2023

Introduced by Sens. HOYLMAN-SIGAL, CLEARE, HINCHEY, JACKSON, MAYER, MYRIE, SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT in relation to establishing a dyslexia and dysgraphia task force; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. Dyslexia and dysgraphia task force. 1. The commissioner of
2 education shall establish a task force to examine appropriate and effective
3 evidence-based dyslexia and dysgraphia screening methods, reading
4 interventions, and other educational supports for students in kindergarten
5 through grade five. The task force shall consist of at least ten
6 members, including the commissioner of education or their designee, who
7 shall serve as chair of the task force. The remaining members shall be
8 appointed by the commissioner of education in such a manner to ensure
9 that all regions of the state are represented, and shall include: (a) at
10 least two members who specialize in identifying, evaluating, and diagnosing
11 individuals with dyslexia or dysgraphia; (b) at least one member
12 who specializes in educating individuals with dyslexia or dysgraphia;
13 (c) at least one member who is a parent of a student with dyslexia or
14 dysgraphia; (d) at least one member with dyslexia or dysgraphia; (e) at
15 least one member from an institute of higher education who is an expert
16 in dyslexia or dysgraphia; and (f) at least one member who is a public
17 school teacher who specializes in teaching literacy and evidence-based
18 reading instruction. All members shall have expertise in fields or
19 disciplines related to the identification of students with learning
20 disabilities including the unique educational needs of students with
21 dyslexia or dysgraphia.

22 2. The task force shall conduct at least two public hearings for the
23 purpose of obtaining information from stakeholders and other interested

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

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1 parties including but not limited to speech pathologists, reading
2 specialists, teachers, school administrators, and parents.

3 3. The task force shall prepare and submit a report of its findings
4 and recommendations to the governor, temporary president of the senate
5 and speaker of the assembly eighteen months after the effective date of
6 this act.

7 4. For the purposes of this act, the term "screening methods" may
8 include examining the use and frequency of dyslexia or dysgraphia
9 screeners that are valid, reliable, low cost, and developmentally appro-
10 priate that measure deficits in areas including: (a) phonological aware-
11 ness; (b) phonological or language-based memory; (c) rapid automatic
12 naming; (d) receptive vocabulary; (e) phonics skills; (f) decoding and
13 encoding real and pseudo-words; (g) oral reading fluency; and (h) writ-
14 ing at the sentence and paragraph level. Such screeners shall be inclu-
15 sive of students with diverse racial, linguistic, and socio-economic
16 backgrounds, and factor familial history.

17 § 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2024 and shall expire and
18 be deemed repealed August 1, 2025.