

**Lincoln Public Schools  
Department of Instruction  
Information on Dyslexia**

**What is Dyslexia?** *The National Institutes of Health (NIH), the International Dyslexia Association (IDA), the Nebraska Dyslexia Association (NDA), and others have adopted and support the following definition: Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.*

**How does LPS screen for Dyslexia?** *LPS does not have a specific screener for dyslexia at this time, but a state approved, universal screener will be given three times each year to students in kindergarten-3rd grade beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. Kindergarten teachers currently assess letter ID within the first four weeks of school and again at the end of every quarter. All teachers take anecdotal notes during guided reading instruction that help them identify patterns in a student's reading behavior and can signal if a student is struggling in the area of word recognition or phonological awareness.*

**What are the components of an evidence-based core program that supports all readers?**

- explicit instruction in phonemic awareness
- systematic and explicit phonics instruction
- methods to improve fluency
- instruction in ways to enhance comprehension
- An expert teacher that:
  - understands the process of learning to read and write
  - incorporates evidence-based instructional practices and strategies into instruction.

*Our core reading Program, McGraw-Hill Wonders has all of the components listed above.*

**How do we assist students with Dyslexia in LPS?**

*LPS uses a Multi-tiered Systems of Support approach. We strive to provide excellent instruction through an evidence-based core program to all students in Tier 1. Students that need additional instruction and support receive that through Tier 1+, Tier 2, and Tier 3 interventions provided by the classroom teacher, resource teacher and/or interventionist.*

**How do I get my child tested for Dyslexia?** *Dyslexia is a medical condition that needs to be diagnosed by a physician or licensed educational psychologist. However, LPS can determine if a student has a reading disability. The school psychologist at the child's school can help the classroom teacher and parent determine next steps to assist the student at school.*

**How is LPS training teachers about Dyslexia?**

*Kindergarten- second grade and sixth grade teachers were given an initial introduction to the Dyslexia legislation, the myths associated with Dyslexia, and characteristics students with Dyslexia may display on the contractual professional learning day in August. The building reading liaisons for grades 3-5 were given the same initial training at their first meeting in September and a short video that included the content of the initial training was given to them to be shared with their colleagues in grades 3-5. All reading liaisons (K-5) went deeper into the Nebraska Technical Assistance Guide for Dyslexia at their November and December meetings exploring at a deeper level current brain research related to Dyslexia, the characteristics of Dyslexia and its associated conditions, characteristics of effective instruction for students with Dyslexia, and appropriate classroom accommodations to support students with Dyslexia. The two reading liaisons from each building along with their principal to share the information with their staff.*

**What should parents do if they suspect their child has Dyslexia?** *If a parents suspects their child has Dyslexia, they should talk to their classroom teacher. The classroom teacher will involve others within the school building as needed, such as the school psychologist, speech/language pathologist and/or administration.*

**Additional Resource** - NDE Technical Assistance Document -

[https://www.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Dyslexia\\_1.20.16.pdf](https://www.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Dyslexia_1.20.16.pdf)