



CONFEDERATION OF OREGON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

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TO: Senate Committee on Education

FR: Morgan Allen, Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA)

RE: Senate Bill 1003

Chair Doherty and members of the House Committee on Education:

On behalf of COSA's 2300+ statewide members, I would like to offer comments in support of Senate Bill 1003-A. The bill reflects our efforts to ensure smooth implementation of dyslexia screenings in kindergarten classrooms across the state.

During the 2015 session, Senate Bill 612 was enacted into law after discussions between advocates for students and families impacted by dyslexia and representatives of the K-12 school system. The final compromise language in the bill addressed four major areas:

1. It required at least one teacher in every K-5 school to receive training related to dyslexia;
2. It authorized funding from the Network for Quality Teaching and Learning to be spent on the required teacher training;
3. It created and funded a Dyslexia Specialist within the Oregon Department of Education;
and
4. It required ODE to create a plan to ensure that all kindergartners and first graders who were not screened in kindergarten receive screenings for risk factors for dyslexia.

Senate Bill 1003-A currently addresses the fourth area, student screening, and is our attempt to clarify and implement the original agreement that became Senate Bill 612

SB 1003-A does three things related to the screening requirement:

1. It clarifies in statute that the universal screening for risk factors for dyslexia is to be administered to all kindergartners and any first graders who were not screened in kindergarten;

2. It clarifies that the screening will include checking for a family history of difficulty in reading, but only for students who actually present risk factors as part of the screening; and
3. It directs ODE to provide guidance on recommended best practices for student level interventions, rather than required, prescriptive level student interventions for students who present risk factors as part of the screening.

Additionally, the bill directs ODE to make recommendations to the Legislature on next steps and best practices for expanding screening and student level interventions by September of 2018.

We have also worked with Senator Roblan and representatives of the advocacy group Decoding Dyslexia to develop a –A2 amendment that extends the deadline for teachers to be trained from January 1, 2018 to July 1, 2018. This is needed to allow more time for teachers to complete the required training in advance of the screenings beginning during the 2018-19 school year. It has the support of Senator Roblan and advocates as well.

We urge your support of SB 1003-A with the –A2 amendment to ensure smooth implementation of dyslexia screening in school districts across Oregon.