

ACT 1039 - Dyslexia Screening and Intervention

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2013, [ACT 1294](#) was passed by Arkansas Legislature to ensure that children with the characteristics of dyslexia would have their needs met by the state's public school system.

In 2015, [ACT 1268](#) modified the requirements concerning dyslexia screenings; clarifying requirements' for school districts to screen students for dyslexia.

In 2016, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) updated the rules governing the implementation of ACT 1268. These [guidelines](#) provided further clarification, guidance, and instruction on how to meet the needs of students exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia.

In 2017, [ACT 1039](#) was passed by Arkansas Legislature passed to amend provisions of the Arkansas Code concerning dyslexia screenings and intervention. Additionally, the ACT added specific enforcement provisions that are tied to Standards for Accreditation and district website posting requirements.

INTERVENTION PROGRAM

All Arkansas public schools must have an Intervention Program in place to provide intervention services to students identified as having characteristics of dyslexia. The Hot Springs School District utilizes the Souday System which is based on the methodology of Orton-Gillingham and has been shown to produce a significant impact on reading growth. The Souday System is successful because it incorporates materials and training that have been carefully designed to reflect the essential components of reading and multi-sensory techniques. Orton-Gillingham is an instructional approach intended primarily for use with individuals who have difficulty with reading, spelling, and writing typically associated with dyslexia.

STUDENT DATA

During the 2017-2018 school year, the Hot Springs School District identified a total of 231 students exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia. These students were placed in the Hot Springs School District's approved intervention program. Specific numbers by campus were:

Gardner = 75 students identified

Langston = 65 students identified

Park = 16 students identified

Oaklawn = 35 students identified

Hot Springs Intermediate = 30 students identified

Hot Springs Junior Academy = 6 students identified

Hot Springs World Class High School = 4 students identified

**Note: These are composite totals for the 2017-2018 school year.*