

Dyslexia

In 2015, Governor Asa Hutchinson signed into law ACT 1268. ACT 1268 is designed to ensure that the needs of all Arkansas children with dyslexia are effectively being met. Dyslexia is defined as “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.” This new law defines dyslexia, describes required screening and intervention, and lists specific required actions by the state, educational cooperatives, and school districts.

In October of 2016, the Arkansas Department of Education updated the rules governing the implementation of ACT 1268. The updated rules can be found [here](#).

In April 2017, the Arkansas Legislature passed [ACT 1039](#) (SB 708) to amend and clarify provisions regarding Dyslexia screening and intervention, and to add specific enforcement provisions tied to school accreditation. ACT 1039 also added new public posting requirements. The information on this page meets or exceeds all posting requirements.

Student Data

During the 2016-17 school year, LISA Academy Public Charter Schools identified a total of 19 students showing characteristics of Dyslexia. All of these students were placed in an approved intervention program.

Universal Screening

ACT 1268 required **universal screening** in Kindergarten through 2nd grade for indicators of Dyslexia, as well as selective screening in grades 3rd-12th.

In 2017-2018, the ADE will be implementing a new K-2 Assessment program that mandates an online, adaptive test at least three times per year. Therefore, universal screenings for K-2 will no longer be required by law.

However, LISA Academy Public Charter Schools will continue to administer K-2 screenings where appropriate. Examples include the **DIBELS** (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), **DSA** (Developmental Spelling Analysis), and **AR-RAN** (Arkansas Rapid Automatized Naming Screener).

Parent Checklist for Signs of Dyslexia can be downloaded [here](#). The Teacher Checklist for Signs of Dyslexia can be downloaded [here](#).

Dyslexia Interventionists

School Districts must have trained “Dyslexia Interventionists” as another component of the law. LISA Academy Public Charter Schools has eight interventionists.

Angela Larrison – LISA Academy Public Charter Schools (District)

Cori Haley, Krystle Hula, and Rachel Caldwell – LISA Academy: Chenal Campus

Carol Yarrington, Jamie Veals, and Brittany Dover – LISA Academy: North Campus

Brittany Foster-Robinson – LISA Academy: West Campus

Additionally, Angela Larrison will be a certified dyslexia therapist at the end of the 2017-18 school year.

Dyslexia Resource Guide

Arkansas Department of Education has created a Dyslexia Resource Guide to provide guidance for districts, schools, and teachers in order to effectively meet the requirements of ACT 1268. This resource guide can be accessed [here](#).

Dyslexia Program

ACT 1039 requires all Arkansas schools to have a Dyslexia Program in place to further evaluate students identified as having characteristics of dyslexia, and then to tutor those students who require intervention. LISA Academy Public Charter Schools uses Connections: OG in 3D, which follows the principals and content of a multisensory structured language approach. CONNECTIONS: OG in 3D® follows the principles and content of a multisensory structured language approach. *CONNECTIONS* stands apart from other O-G programs because it incorporates phonemic objects. By holding the objects, which represents the sound he is learning, the student can actually "feel" the sound, helping him / her make more connections to the brain for remembering the sound. In addition to visual, auditory, tactile, and kinesthetic teaching. *CONNECTIONS* also incorporates teaching sounds by smell and taste, senses that are often overlooked in multisensory programs.

To learn more about this program click [here](#).

For more information about Dyslexia Intervention at LISA Academy, please visit our website:

www.lisastudentservices.com

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