

POLICY

Dyslexia and Related Disorders

The Board shall ensure that procedures for identifying and providing appropriate instructional services to students for dyslexia and related disorders are implemented by Heritage Academy. These procedures shall be implemented in accordance with the State Board of Education's *Dyslexia Handbook: Procedures Concerning Dyslexia and Related Disorders (Dyslexia Handbook)*.

Identification and Testing

Screening should be done only by individuals or professionals who are trained to assess students for dyslexia and related disorders.

Before an identification or assessment procedure is used selectively with an individual student, Heritage Academy must notify the student's parent or guardian or another person standing in parental relation to the student.

A process for early identification, intervention, and support for students at risk for dyslexia and related disorders must be available, as outlined in the *Dyslexia Handbook*.

Treatment

Heritage Academy shall provide each identified student access at his or her campus to instructional programs and to the services of a teacher trained in dyslexia and related services. Heritage Academy may, with the approval of each student's parents or guardians, offer additional services at a centralized location, so long as such centralized services do not preclude each student from receiving services at his or her campus.

Reading Program

Heritage Academy shall purchase a reading program or develop its own reading program for students with dyslexia and related disorders that is aligned with the descriptors found in the *Dyslexia Handbook*.

Teachers who screen and treat these students must be trained in instructional strategies that utilize individualized, intensive, multi-sensory, phonetic methods and a variety of writing and spelling components described in the *Dyslexia Handbook*. The professional development activities specified by each school and/or campus planning committee shall include these instructional strategies.

Reassessment

Unless otherwise provided by law, a student determined to have dyslexia during testing or accommodated because of dyslexia may not be retested for dyslexia for the purpose of reassessing the student's need for accommodations until Heritage Academy reevaluates the information obtained from previous testing of the student.

Parental Notifications

Heritage Academy shall inform parents and guardians of students eligible under Section 504 of all services and options available to the student under that law.

Parent Education Program

Heritage Academy shall develop and provide a parent education program for parents and guardians of students with dyslexia and related disorders. This program should include:

- Awareness of characteristics of dyslexia and related disorders;
- Information on testing and diagnosis of dyslexia;
- Information on effective strategies for teaching dyslexic students; and
- Awareness of information on modification, especially modifications allowed on standardized testing.

Education Code 38.003; 19 TAC 74.28.