

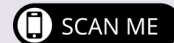
OVERVIEW OF SENATE BILL 114 (Education Omnibus Trailer Bill) K–2 Screening for Reading Difficulties, Including Risk of Dyslexia



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Timeline

Date (on or before)	Activity
January 31, 2024	SBE appoints panel of experts
December 31, 2024	Expert Panel and SBE approve a list of screening instruments
June 30, 2025	LEAs adopt one or more screening instruments
2025–26 School Year and annually thereafter	LEAs screen K–2 students for reading difficulties

What is screening for reading difficulties, including risk of dyslexia?

Screening students for risk of reading difficulties, including dyslexia, is one of many tools that educators can employ to gain information about how to support their students' learning. Screening should be considered part of a school's comprehensive instructional strategy, and should be used by educators like other types of formative and summative assessments: to inform instruction, measure a student's progress, identify student learning needs, and enable parents and educators to discuss student needs in a more informed way.

Screening results shall be used as a flag for potential risk of reading difficulties and to provide supports and services.

What screening is NOT

These screening assessments shall not be considered an evaluation or diagnostic tool to establish eligibility for special education and related services or an evaluation to determine eligibility for a Section 504 plan.

Screening shall not be used for any high stakes purpose and not as a diagnosis of a disability.

Screening and English learners (*a few highlights*)

The screening instrument or instruments adopted by the expert panel shall:

- Provide assessments for both English-speaking students and non-English speaking students, in the primary languages of students if assessments in those languages are available.
- Be normed and validated using a contemporary multicultural and multilanguage sample of students.

Students who do not speak sufficient English to be screened in English shall be screened in their primary language if a screening instrument in their primary language is available or their risk for reading difficulties will be evaluated using an alternative process.

Overview of Senate Bill 114 (Education Omnibus Trailer Bill)

Excerpted Language from Senate Bill 114 (Education Omnibus Trailer Bill) on K–2 Screening for Reading Difficulties, Including Risk of Dyslexia

CHAPTER 15.5. Screening for Risk of Reading Difficulties

53008. (a) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that screening pupils for risk of reading difficulties, including dyslexia, is one of many tools that educators can employ to gain information about how to support their pupils' learning. Screening should be considered part of a school's comprehensive instructional strategy, and should be used by educators like other types of formative and summative assessments: to inform individualized instruction, measure a pupil's progress, identify pupil learning needs, and enable parents and educators to discuss pupil needs in a more informed way.

(2) The Legislature further finds and declares that early identification and intervention with evidence-based early literacy instructional strategies and materials improves literacy outcomes for pupils at risk of, and with, reading difficulties, including dyslexia. Dyslexia is the most common learning disability; however, many pupils on the dyslexia spectrum struggle every day to read without proper identification and support. By screening all pupils for risk of reading difficulties early, California can help families and teachers achieve the best learning and life outcomes for all pupils and close academic achievement gaps.

(b) On or before January 31, 2024, the state board shall appoint an independent panel of experts for the purpose of creating an approved list of evidence-based, culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate screening instruments for pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 to assess pupils for risk of reading difficulties, including possible neurological disorders such as dyslexia, pursuant to this section. The state board shall not appoint any person to the panel of experts with a financial interest in the screening instruments under consideration. The state board shall establish a review process, including how screening instruments will be evaluated against the criteria specified in subdivision (g), for the panel to use to evaluate and approve screening instruments. This subdivision does not prohibit the state board from periodically reconstituting this expert panel or updating the review process, nor does it prohibit the expert panel from periodically amending the list of screening instruments described in subdivision (c) at the request of the state board.

(c) (1) The work of the panel of experts appointed by the state board pursuant to subdivision (b) is subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code) and all meetings of the panel are subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

(2) On or before December 31, 2024, the panel of experts appointed by the state board shall, at a regularly scheduled public meeting, vote to approve a list of screening instruments pursuant to the review process and evaluation criteria established by the state board pursuant to subdivision (b). The list shall include screening instruments that are developed both for English-speaking pupils and for non-English speaking pupils, in languages reflecting the primary languages of pupils in the state, to the extent assessments in those languages are available. The panel of experts shall also identify information about the appropriate administration of each screening instrument, including the appropriate grade or grades for administration of each screening instrument.

(d) On or before June 30, 2025, the governing board or body of a local educational agency serving pupils in kindergarten or grades 1 or 2 shall adopt, at a public meeting, one or more screening instruments from the list adopted pursuant to subdivision (c) to assess pupils for risk of reading difficulties pursuant to this section. The screening instrument or instruments adopted shall provide assessments for both English-speaking pupils and non-English speaking pupils, in languages reflecting the primary languages of pupils in the local educational agency, to the extent assessments in those languages are available.

(e) Commencing no later than the 2025–26 school year, and annually thereafter, a local educational agency serving pupils in kindergarten or grades 1 or 2 shall assess each pupil in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 for risk of reading difficulties using the screening instrument or instruments adopted by the governing board or body of the local educational agency pursuant to subdivision (d), unless the pupil's parent or guardian opts out of the screening in writing. In determining when during the school year to administer each screening instrument, a local educational agency shall consider whether pupils have received sufficient instruction in foundational reading skills to support a valid assessment. Nothing in this section restricts local educational agencies from providing additional pupil screenings or diagnostic evaluations, as appropriate.

(f) If a pupil enrolls for the first time in kindergarten or grades 1 or 2 after the screening instrument or instruments have been administered to all pupils in the given grade in that school year pursuant to subdivision (e), the local educational agency shall assess the pupil using the screening instrument or instruments adopted by the governing board or body of the local educational agency pursuant to subdivision (d) within 45 calendar days of enrollment, unless the pupil's parent or guardian opts out of the screening in writing, or unless the parent or guardian provides documentation or the local educational agency has documentation that the pupil has had a similar screening in their prior school for their current grade and the parent or guardian was made aware of the results.

(g) (1) To support the adoption of high-quality screening instruments that minimize the overidentification or underidentification of pupils' risk of reading difficulties, and offer meaningful information for follow-up, the state board shall consider the extent to which a screening instrument addresses the following factors when adopting evaluation criteria pursuant to subdivision (b):

(A) Use of direct measurement, supplemented by other pupil data, to determine if a pupil is at risk of a reading difficulty, including dyslexia.

(B) Measurement of domains that may predict dyslexia and other reading disorders, including, but not limited to, measures of oral language, phonological and phonemic awareness, decoding skills, letter-sound knowledge, knowledge of letter names, rapid automatized naming, visual attention, reading fluency, vocabulary, and language comprehension.

(C) Evidence that the tool is normed and validated using a contemporary multicultural and multilanguage sample of pupils, with outcome data for pupils whose home language is a language other than English as well as those who are native English speakers.

(D) Integration of relevant pupil demographic information, such as home language, English language fluency, and access to prekindergarten education, to more fully understand a pupil's performance.

(E) Guidance and resources for educators regarding how to administer screening instruments, interpret results, explain results to families, including in pupils' primary languages, and determine further educational strategies, assessments, diagnostics, and interventions that should be considered

and that are specific to each type of pupil result. Guidance and resources provided pursuant to this subparagraph shall be informed by the English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework for California Public Schools developed pursuant to Section 60207 and the California Dyslexia Guidelines developed pursuant to Section 56335, as well as knowledge of effective interventions for the specific needs of individual pupils, and shall reflect a tiered interventions model aligned with the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support.

(2) Assessments administered pursuant to this section shall not be considered an evaluation or diagnostic tool to establish eligibility for special education and related services pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.), or an evaluation to determine eligibility for a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794). However, assessments administered pursuant to this section shall not be used to delay the child find process required under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Additionally, assessments administered pursuant to this section may be used by a local educational agency to recommend that a pupil receive further assessment and evaluation to establish eligibility for special education and related services pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or to determine eligibility for a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

(h) Pupils who do not speak sufficient English to be screened with an English-language instrument shall be screened pursuant to this section in their primary language if a screening instrument in their primary language approved pursuant to subdivision (c) is available. If a screening instrument is not available in at least one language in which a pupil is proficient, before the pupil can be screened, the pupil's risk for reading difficulties shall be evaluated through an analysis of the pupil's developmental history, educational history, and literacy progress, taking into account the pupil's home background and evolving English language abilities, including speaking, listening, reading, spelling, and writing, consistent with the California Dyslexia Guidelines. Components of screening instruments that do not require English language proficiency may be used in this evaluation. When a pupil acquires sufficient English language knowledge and fluency to be able to be assessed using a screening instrument pursuant to this section, or if a screening instrument in their primary language becomes available, the local educational agency shall assess that pupil using the appropriate screening instrument.

(i) A pupil may be exempted from the requirements of this section with the prior written consent of the parent or guardian if any of the following criteria are satisfied:

(1) The pupil has a current identification or diagnosis of a reading difficulty, reading disorder, or other disability.

(2) The pupil is eligible for special education and related services pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

(3) The pupil is in the process of being assessed for eligibility for special education and related services pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the pupil is being evaluated with diagnostic assessments that make screening pursuant to this section redundant.

(j) A local educational agency shall provide parents or guardians of pupils eligible for screening pursuant to this section with information about the screening, including the date or dates of the screening and instructions for how parents or guardians can opt out of the screening on behalf of their child, no later than

15 calendar days before the administration of the screening instrument or instruments. A local educational agency is encouraged to provide information about screening pursuant to this section with other back-to-school materials at the beginning of the school year.

(k) Pupil results from assessments administered pursuant to this section shall be made available to the pupil's parent or guardian in a timely manner, but no more than 45 calendar days from the date the assessment was administered. These results shall include information about how to interpret the results, as well as the next steps pursuant to subdivision (l), if applicable.

(l) Screening results shall be used as a flag for potential risk of reading difficulties, not as a diagnosis of a disability. Results from a screening instrument shall be used as part of a broader process that further evaluates pupil needs and progress, identifies supports for classroom instruction, enables targeted individual intervention as needed, and allows for further diagnosis if concerns do not resolve. Accordingly, if a pupil is identified as being at risk of having reading difficulties after being screened pursuant to this section, the local educational agency shall provide the pupil with supports and services, appropriate to the specific challenges identified by the screening instrument and other pertinent information about the pupil, which may include, among other supports and services, any of the following:

- (1) Evidence-based literacy instruction focused on the pupil's specific needs.
- (2) Progress monitoring.
- (3) Early intervention in the regular general education program.
- (4) One-on-one or small group tutoring.
- (5) Further evaluation or diagnostic assessment.

(m) Results of an assessment administered pursuant to this section shall not be used for any high-stakes purpose, including, but not limited to, teacher or other school staff evaluation, accountability, pupil grade promotion or retention, identification for gifted or talented education, reclassification of English learners, or identification as an individual with exceptional needs.

(n) Notifications to parents or guardians provided pursuant to this section shall comply with the translation requirements set forth in Section 48985.

(o) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "English learner" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 306.
- (2) "Kindergarten" shall not include transitional kindergarten, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 48000.
- (3) "Local educational agency" means a school district, county office of education, or charter school.
- (4) "Reading difficulties" means a barrier that impacts a pupil's ability to learn to read or improve reading abilities, including dyslexia.
- (5) "Screening instrument" means a brief tool administered by an appropriately trained school employee, including, but not limited to, a certificated teacher of record, measuring discrete areas to determine pupils at risk of reading difficulties, including dyslexia.