

Identifying Students at Risk for Reading Difficulty



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Use this webinar companion document to further explore the webinar topic with colleagues. Below is a list of discussion prompts and resources to guide conversation and deepen your understanding of the topic.



- How did Dr. Fletcher's overview of dyslexia shift your previous understanding of students who struggle with reading difficulties?
- What would you like to know more about concerning screening and identification in your classroom?
- What instructional strategy, assessment, or tool mentioned in the webinar will you try to implement in your classroom moving forward?

More to Explore



Read the **ARTICLE** titled *Identifying and Teaching Students with Significant Reading Disabilities*.

- What three recommendations do the authors highlight for improving reading instruction and increasing student literacy achievement?
- How can teachers use short progress monitoring probes (like Oral Reading Fluency passages) to support reading instruction in tiers 1, 2, and 3?
- What role does explicit instruction play in supporting struggling readers? How can you make your instruction more explicit?



Listen to the **PODCAST** interview with Dr. Fletcher titled *Identification of Learning Disabilities*.

- Dr. Fletcher points out that recent research shows that the brain is malleable and sensitive to intervention, particularly in the early grades. What implications does this have for supporting students at risk for reading difficulties in school?
- Dr. Fletcher suggests that some models for identification that have been used should be stepped away from, but one model—The Instructional Model of Learning Disability Identification—should be embraced. What are the key elements of this model, and how can a school begin to implement these?



Watch the **VIDEO** playlist featuring Dr. Fletcher as he discusses dyslexia, screening, and interventions.

- **Video 2:** Dr. Fletcher explains that with intervention, reading difficulties may be prevented. What are some of the recommendations he makes to teachers to support their struggling readers and prevent later difficulty?
- **Video 3:** Dr. Fletcher discusses the importance of universal early screening. Why is identifying risk in students early in the literacy learning process critical to later reading success?
- **Video 6:** Dr. Fletcher talks about what we now know about how reading difficulties develop in children. What are the two main factors he discusses, and how might those factors be mitigated in the classroom?

