

DYSLEXIA IN GEORGIA

Dyslexia is a learning disability that affects language skills.¹ Children with dyslexia often struggle with reading, spelling, writing, and speaking words correctly.²

Dyslexia is not related to intelligence.³ Many students have dyslexia but need extra assistance in school.⁴

DYSLEXIA AND GEORGIA'S KIDS

- More than **80,000** Georgia students are diagnosed with a specific learning disorder like dyslexia.⁵
- About **1 in 3** special education students in Georgia have this type of disability.⁶
- Many kids with dyslexia also have attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or social challenges.⁷

SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF DYSLEXIA⁸



In Young Children:

- Can't easily rhyme words
- Trouble with letter sounds
- Can't identify first, middle, and last sounds in words
- Struggles to write their own name



When Reading:

- Has trouble sounding out simple words like “cat” or “map”
- Mixes up letters that look alike
- Skips or adds words when reading
- Doesn't understand what they read



When Writing:

- Many spelling errors
- Forgets capitalization and punctuation
- Messy handwriting with poor spacing

GEORGIA LAWS AIMED AT EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION

Senate Bill 48 (2019) ⁹

Georgia's first dyslexia law

- Required schools to screen kindergarteners beginning in 2024
- Helped train teachers about dyslexia

House Bill 307 (2025) ^{10, 11}

Subsequent legislation to implement additional support

- Develops individualized reading support plans for students who are experiencing difficulties
- Mandates triannual reading assessments
- Ensures parents are informed if their child requires reading support
- Adopts evidence-based instructional methods for teaching reading
- Prohibits the use of ineffective reading strategies

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FACTSHEET CITATIONS



HOW GEORGIA'S INTERVENTIONS ARE HELPING STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA

- Applies clear criteria to determine which students need support
- Conducts early screenings to detect reading difficulties
- Offers tiered levels of support tailored to each student's needs
- Trains teachers to effectively support students with dyslexia

WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT



Identify kids with dyslexia before they start preschool



Train new teachers about dyslexia



Use proven reading programs in schools



Train teachers on spotting dyslexia



Assess programmatic success

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide training for ALL new teachers through the schools of education, relating to identifying dyslexia/reading problems and knowing how to teach students reading skills.
- Embrace the Cox Campus' "Read Right from the Start" program that provides instruction to existing teachers and educators on how to teach reading.
- Expand early screening by building the expertise of healthcare and other child-serving professionals.



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FACTSHEET CITATIONS

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