

ACT 1039 - Dyslexia Screening and Intervention

Candace Curtis- District Dyslexia Coordinator

BACKGROUND

In April of 2015, Governor Asa Hutchinson signed into law [ACT 1268](#). The **Dyslexia Law**, as it is commonly known, was a direct response to concerns that ACT 1294 (2013) was not being properly implemented by Arkansas public school systems.

ACT 1268 was designed to ensure that the needs of *all* Arkansas children with dyslexia are effectively being met. It 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 (ADE) updated the rules governing the implementation of ACT 1268. These [updated rules](#) provided further clarification, guidance, and instruction on how to meet the needs of students showing characteristics of Dyslexia.

In April of 2017, the Arkansas Legislature passed [ACT 1039](#) (SB 708) to amend and clarify code 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.**

INTERVENTION PROGRAM

All Arkansas public schools must have an Intervention program in place to assist any students identified as having characteristics of dyslexia. The Berryville School District primarily uses a program called [Take Flight](#) which contains the five components of effective reading instruction including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and reading comprehension and also [Phonics First](#) which incorporates Orton-Gillingham principles to reading, is language-based, multisensory, structured, sequential, cumulative, cognitive, and flexible. This program is accredited through both IDA (International Dyslexia Association) and IMSLEC (International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council). Students needing extra practice in phonemic awareness skills will be taught using [Michael Haggerty's Phonemic Awareness](#) activities.

Student Data

During **2024-2025**, the Berryville District identified a total of 61 new students showing the characteristics of dyslexia. All of these students were placed in the approved intervention program. The number of students receiving dyslexia services for 2024-2025 by campus were:

Berryville Elementary School- 37 identified; 43 served

Berryville Intermediate School- 82 students identified; 112 students served

Berryville Middle School- 40 students identified; 40 students served, 4 students dismissed

Berryville High School- 33 identified; 34 served , 4 students dismissed

District wide- 192 Students identified; 229 students served, 8 students dismissed

**Note: These are composite totals for the year. If students leave the district, these numbers may not exactly match final numbers on state reports.*

DYSLEXIA INTERVENTIONISTS

All Arkansas public schools must have trained Dyslexia Interventionists on staff. The Dyslexia Interventionists for the Berryville School District are:

Berryville Elementary School - Carmen Hall & Candace Curtis

Berryville Intermediate - Shelley Brown, JP Dean, Renee Correll, Jassah Jones, Angela Robinson, Brittany Escobar & Candace Curtis

Berryville Middle/High School - Ciera Woodruff

In addition, Amanda Green at the Ozarks Unlimited Resource (OUR) Educational Cooperative serves as the regional reading specialist for our District.

SCREENINGS

All Arkansas public schools are required to conduct initial screening in kindergarten through third grade for indicators of dyslexia. In addition, all schools are required to screen any student in the fourth through twelfth grade who appears to be experiencing difficulty (as noted by the classroom teacher).

Screening tools used by the Berryville School District may include Atlas K-3 Literacy Screener, iReady (online assessment of reading skills), Dibels, PADE (Phonological Awareness Development Evaluation), AR-RAN (Arkansas Rapid Automatized Naming Screener), Phonics First Diagnostic Assessments, CTOPP-2 (Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing), PAST (Phonological Assessment Screening Test), Woodcock

Reading Mastery Tests (WRMT-III), GORT-5 (Gray Oral Reading Test), TOWRE-2 (Test of Word Reading Efficiency-2) and TWS-5 (Test of Written Spelling-5).

DYSLEXIA RESOURCE GUIDE

The Arkansas Department of Education has created a [Dyslexia Resource Guide](#) to provide guidance for districts, schools, and teachers seeking to effectively meet Arkansas code provisions regarding dyslexia screening and intervention. In addition to Dyslexia specifics, it also outlines the relationship of Dyslexia Intervention to RTI, and how this combination meets IDEA (the federal Individuals with **D**isabilities **E**ducation **A**ct). The Berryville School District maintains full compliance with all provisions of this Guide.