

1

Dyslexia Screening Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Kathleen A. Riebe

House Sponsor:

2

LONG TITLE

3

General Description:

4

This bill requires dyslexia screening for certain students in public schools.

5

Highlighted Provisions:

6

This bill:

7

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires certain school districts to screen certain students for dyslexia;
- ▶ requires a regional education service agency to screen certain students for dyslexia;
- ▶ allows a parent to request dyslexia screening for the parent's student in certain situations;
- ▶ allows a charter school to screen certain students for dyslexia; and
- ▶ requires the state board to:
 - distribute funds the Legislature appropriates;
 - provide dyslexia screening for certain students; and
 - make relevant administrative rules.

8

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

9

None

10

Other Special Clauses:

11

This bill provides a special effective date.

12

Utah Code Sections Affected:

13

ENACTS:

14

53G-9-216, Utah Code Annotated 1953

15

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

16

Section 1. Section **53G-9-216** is enacted to read:

17

53G-9-216 . Dyslexia screening.

18

(1) As used in this section:

19

(a) "Dyslexia" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53E-4-307.

20

(b) "Large school district" means a school district:

S.B. 159

- (i) with more than 3,000 students; or
- (ii) located in a county of the first, second, or third class, as described in Section 17-60-104.
- (c) "Public school" means a:
 - (i) district school; or
 - (ii) charter school.
- (d) "Regional education service agency" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-4-410.
- (e) "Small school district" means a school district:
 - (i) with 3,000 students or fewer; or
 - (ii) located in a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class, as described in Section 17-60-104.

A large school district shall:

- (a) administer a dyslexia screener to a student enrolled in a public school in:
 - (i) kindergarten;
 - (ii) grade 1; and
 - (iii) grade 2;
- (b) administer the dyslexia screener described in Subsection (2)(a) at least once during each school year for the applicable grade level; and
- (c) use the funds the state board allocates under Subsection (8) to:
 - (i) hire one full-time equivalent employee whose primary responsibility is to administer a dyslexia screener and coordinate screening activities within the large school district, in accordance with the requirements of this section; and
 - (ii) cover other costs associated with the requirements of this section.

(a) A regional education service agency shall:

- (i) administer a dyslexia screener to:
 - (A) each student enrolled in a small school district; and
 - (B) upon request, a student enrolled at a charter school in accordance with Subsection (4); and
- (ii) use the funds the state board allocates under Subsection (8) to:
 - (A) hire one full-time equivalent employee whose primary responsibility is to administer a dyslexia screener and coordinate screening activities within the regional education service agency, in accordance with the requirements of this section; and

(B) cover other costs associated with the requirements of this section.

(b) A small school district shall use the small school district's regional education service agency to administer the dyslexia screener required under Subsection (3)(a).

(4) A charter school may, voluntarily or upon the request of a parent of a student enrolled in the charter school, through the charter school's regional education service agency, administer a dyslexia screener to a student in:

(a) kindergarten;

(b) grade 1; or

(c) grade 2.

(5)(a) A parent of a student enrolled at a public school, in grades kindergarten through grade 2, may request a dyslexia screening for the parent's student regardless of whether a public school has administered a screener to the student in accordance with this section.

(b) A parent of a student enrolled in the following programs may request that the state board screen the parent's student for dyslexia:

(i) a home school program;

(ii) the Carson Smith Opportunity Scholarship Program, established in Section 53E-7-402;

(iii) the Statewide Online Education Program, created in Section 53F-4-502; or

(iv) the Utah Fits All Scholarship Program, established in Section 53F-6-402.

(6) A school district or regional education service agency may select and administer any dyslexia screener that:

(a) aligns with state board rule; and

(b) complies with the requirements of this section.

(7) For a student whom a district or charter school screens for dyslexia under this section and who demonstrates characteristics of dyslexia, the district or charter school shall comply with the requirements of Subsection 53E-4-307(4)(a).

(8) The state board shall:

(a) subject to legislative appropriations, distribute funds to each large school district and each regional educational service agency to comply with the requirements of this section;

(b) employ or contract with personnel who can administer a dyslexia screener to the students described in Subsection (5)(b); and

(c) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,

99 make rules to:
100 (i) create a process to identify reliable and effective dyslexia screeners for use under
101 this section; and
102 (ii) comply with the requirements of this section.
103 **Section 2. Effective Date.**
104 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.