



State of Arizona

Department of Education

Exceptional Student Services

Hot Topic

August 12, 2025

Alert to Special Education and Program Administrators: HB2170 (Dyslexia)

On May 13, 2025, the Governor signed into law HB2170 which reads: if, under section 15-761, paragraph 2, subdivision (a), the pupil is found to need special education and related services because of a specific learning disability, the pupil's Individualized Education Program (IEP) shall indicate whether the pupil has been diagnosed with dyslexia.

The Arizona Department of Education/ Exceptional Student Services (ADE/ESS) is providing this notice to ensure the community is aware of this new requirement. It states that the IEP of a student eligible under the SLD category includes any diagnosis of dyslexia, if applicable. This requirement would apply to any student within the jurisdiction of the Public Education Agency (PEA) for whom the PEA is required to develop an IEP. This new requirement does not require the PEA to obtain a diagnosis of dyslexia or conduct assessments necessary to diagnose dyslexia.

PEAs are obligated, as part of a comprehensive evaluation, to assess students in all areas related to the suspected disability, as outlined in 34 C.F.R. 300.304 (c) 4. Guidance from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) clarifies that decisions regarding areas to be assessed are determined by the suspected needs of the child. The PEA is also obligated to ensure that the evaluation is sufficiently comprehensive to identify all of the child's special education and related services needs, whether or not commonly linked to the disability category in which the child has been classified (34 C.F.R. § 300.304(c)(6)).

To ensure compliance with this new requirement, PEAs must update their policies, procedures, and practices accordingly. ESS is not monitoring programmatically for this requirement, nor is this a data reporting requirement. How a PEA determines to meet this requirement is under the local control of the PEA governing board.

For additional information regarding this or other compliance-related requirements please contact the Program Support and Monitoring (PSM) specialist assigned to the associated Public Education Agency (PEA).