

George West ISD Dyslexia Program

Awareness for Educators and Parents

The Texas Dyslexia Handbook is available at www.tea.texas.gov

- **What is dyslexia?** Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and fluent word recognition and poor spelling and decision-making abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language, which is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provisions of effective classroom instruction.
- **Effective strategies:** Provide multisensory experiences, pre-teach vocabulary, allow time for processing at their own pace, graphic novels, provide audiobooks when needed, break down tasks, and use visual supports.
- **Characteristics of dyslexia:** Students with dyslexia may have difficulty mispronouncing words, mapping sounds to letters, auditory memory for rhymes, songs, and chants, blending words in isolation or reading unknown words, fluency, spelling, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing.
- **Possible accommodations for state testing as prescribed by the ARD/504 committee:** Reminders to stay on task, small group or individual testing, content and language supports, text-to-speech, speech-to-text, extra time, oral administration, spelling assistance, and writing predictor.

George West ISD Administers a universal Dyslexia Screening of students in first grade at the end of January and Kindergarten at the end of the year. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

George West ISD uses Reading by Design: An Individualized Literacy Intervention, a systematic, multisensory approach aligned with research-based practices for developing literacy. This intervention follows an intensive, explicit, and cumulative design for remediating reading and writing skills at all grade levels.

Dyslexia Teacher Qualifications

- Highly Qualified
- Trained in the program the district is using for students with dyslexia
- Documentation dyslexia training
- Must deliver multisensory instruction with fidelity
- Must be trained in dyslexia and related disorders

Audio Books available through:

The Talking Book Program www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html

Learning Ally <http://learningally.org>

Bookshare www.bookshare.org

George West ISD Diagnostician: Ethel Murphy emurphy@gwisd.us

George West Special Ed Pam Garrett pgarrett@gwisd.us

Amanda Terry aterry@gwisd.us

Kristy Schroeder kschroeder@gwisd.us

George West ISD Dyslexia Coordinator/Teacher Clarrisa Arciba carciba@gwisd.us