

Report of the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia to the 2022 Kansas Legislature

CHAIRPERSON: Jim Porter

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS: Jennifer Bettles, Sarah Brinkley, Jamie Callaghan, Tally Fleming, Dr. David Hurford, Jennifer Knight, Alisa Matteoni, Christina Middleton, Jeanine Phillips, Jeri Powers, Angie Schreiber, and Sonja Watkins

OTHER MEMBERS: Senator Brenda Dietrich (appointed to replace Senator Ty Masterson)

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Mike Burgess, Laura Jurgensen, and Lori McMillan

CHARGE

Pursuant to 2018 Sub. for HB 2602, the Task Force shall advise and make recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Education regarding matters concerning the use of evidence-based practices for students with dyslexia. Specifically, the bill provides the Task Force's recommendations and resource materials shall evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the previous recommendations of the Task Force.

Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia

FINAL REPORT

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia made no formal recommendations to the 2022 Legislature.

Proposed Legislation: None.

BACKGROUND

The Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia (Task Force) was created by 2018 Sub. for HB 2602, codified at KSA 2020 Supp. 72-8193, to advise and make recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, and State Board of Education on or before January 30, 2019, regarding matters concerning the use of evidence-based practices for students with dyslexia.

The Task Force initially reported to the Governor, Legislature, and State Board of Education in January 2019.

The Task Force was extended through fiscal year 2022 by 2019 House Sub. for SB 16, which also authorized the Task Force to meet no more than once per year in calendar years 2019, 2020, and 2021.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The Task Force met December 15, 2021, to receive written updates on the progress of the implementation of recommendations made at previous meetings.

Receipt of Reports

The Task Force received written updates from the following entities that provided information at previous meetings:

- The Kansas Association of Educational Service Agencies;
- The Kansas Board of Regents;
- The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE); and
- Private institutions of higher education (via a memorandum published by KSDE).

Chairperson Overview

The Chairperson provided an overview of previous Task Force recommendations, including the creation of a Dyslexia Handbook, which has been created and distributed and is being reviewed. He also stated the Dyslexia Coordinator at the KSDE had resigned, but the position had been re-filled.

He stated the Task Force had made previous funding recommendations, but those recommendations had not been approved by the Legislature; however, KSDE had allocated federal American Rescue Plan Act funds for several initiatives for the next three years, including:

- \$15.0 million for Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) Training;

- \$8.5 million for FastBridge; and
- \$650,000 for Renaissance Learning.

He stated funds had also been allocated to fund the Dyslexia Coordinator position for three years.

He provided information on a literacy grant obtained by KSDE for the Literacy Link Program, and stated literacy resources are available for parents and teachers.

He noted a recent Special Committee on Education meeting, and stated that Committee

recommended the Legislature, State Board of Education (State Board), and KSDE focus on having every Kansas third grader reading at the third-grade level by the time they reach the third grade.

He also stated there are plans for the State Board and the Legislature to continue to meet and communicate in the 2022 Session.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia made no formal recommendations to the 2022 Legislature.