

# Report of the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia to the 2020 Kansas Legislature

**CHAIRPERSON:** Jim Porter

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON:** Representative Brenda Dietrich

**LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS:** Senators Bruce Givens and Ty Masterson

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

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Mike Burgess, Laura Jurgensen, 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.

- In 2019, the Task Force shall evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the previous recommendations of the Task Force.

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# Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia

## REPORT

### Conclusions and Recommendations

The Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia restates the previous recommendations of the Task Force and specifically recommends the creation of a statewide dyslexia coordinator within the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE).

**Proposed Legislation:** The Task Force requests legislation to appropriate sufficient additional funds to the KSDE to hire a statewide dyslexia coordinator.

### BACKGROUND

The Task Force was created by 2018 Sub. for HB 2602, codified at KSA 72-8193, to advise and make recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, and Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) 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 KSBE in January 2019.

The Task Force was extended through fiscal year 2022 by 2019 House Sub. for SB 16, allowing the Task Force to meet once per year in 2019, 2020, and 2021.

The January 2019 report of the Task Force may be found on the Kansas Legislative Research Department website with materials for 2018 Interim Committees, at [www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Publications/CommitteeReports/2018CommitteeReports/legis\\_tf\\_dyslexia-cr.pdf](http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Publications/CommitteeReports/2018CommitteeReports/legis_tf_dyslexia-cr.pdf).

### COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Task Force met December 9, 2019. Staff from the Kansas State Department of Education

(KSDE) provided an overview of the work of KSBE and KSDE in response to the initial report of the Task Force. A Task Force member also presented to the Task Force on what efforts are being undertaken by an example school district toward education of students with dyslexia. The Task Force discussed the implementation of the recommendations of the initial report.

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Task Force restates the recommendations of its initial report. The Task Force specifically recommends a statewide dyslexia coordinator position be created within KSDE and the Legislature appropriate sufficient funds to fill the position; it recommends whatever legislation is necessary to accomplish this recommendation.

The Task Force submits its report for consideration to the following standing committees of the 2020 Legislature: House Committee on Appropriations, Senate Committee on Ways and Means, House and Senate Committees on Education, House Committee on K-12 Education Budget, and House Committee on Higher Education Budget.