

Assembly Committee on Education
April 18, 2019

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Information on Assembly Bill 110

Description of Assembly Bill 110

This bill requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to develop a guidebook for parents, guardians, teachers, and administrators regarding dyslexia and related conditions. To develop the guidebook, the state superintendent of public instruction must establish an advisory committee, whose membership shall be determined in consultation with the International Dyslexia Association—Wisconsin Branch, Inc. (IDA), and the Wisconsin State Reading Association, Inc. (WSRA). Representatives from IDA and WSRA also serve as co-chairpersons on the advisory committee.

By no later than the first day of the 7th month after the effective date of this paragraph, in addition to the co-chairpersons the state superintendent shall appoint to the advisory committee all of the following:

1. One member who is a representative of the department of public instruction.
2. Eight members from the recommendations provided by International Dyslexia Association – Wisconsin Branch, Inc.
3. Eight members from the recommendations provided by the Wisconsin State Reading Association, Inc.,

The advisory committee must submit to DPI a draft guidebook containing at least all of the following information: (1) a description of screening processes and tools available to identify dyslexia and related conditions, (2) a description of interventions and instructional strategies that have been shown to improve academic performance of pupils with dyslexia and related conditions, and (3) a description of resources and services related to dyslexia and related conditions that are available to pupils with dyslexia and related conditions, parents and guardians of such pupils, and educators.

The advisory committee must submit its draft guidebook to DPI within one year of appointment of all members of the advisory committee. DPI must publish the final guidebook within three months after it receives the draft guidebook from the advisory committee. Any school board that maintains an Internet site must include a link to the guidebook on its Internet site.

Finally, DPI must review the guidebook once every three years, in consultation with IDA and WSRA.

Policy and Administrative Effects

The Department will need fiscal support or reallocate resources to absorb the associated costs of developing the guidebook within its existing budget. The advisory committee will need a neutral facilitator, staff assistance from those who work in both general and special education, as well as graphic design work, professional editing, and printing. Finally, the bill requires the guidebook to include screening processes and tools, interventions and instructional strategies, and available resources and services. These resources most likely would require funding and reallocation of staff.

It is the role of the department to provide guidance and resources to support our schools and students. We want to share best practices and supports to increase student achievement and close gaps. Should AB 110 be enacted, the department would use this advisory committee to continue that practice with the understanding that ultimately schools and districts make independent decisions about classroom instruction, assessment, and materials.