

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE, IN SUPPORT OF TENNESSEE HOUSE BILL 1124: DYSLEXIA SCREENING

RESOLUTION NO. 25-002

PREPARED BY:
BOARD CHAIR
BETSY HENDERSON

APPROVED AS TO RESOLUTION

FORM;

DIRECTOR OF LAW

Date: 3/6/2025

WHEREAS, dyslexia is a specific learning disability that affects reading, writing, and spelling, and impacts the ability of students to achieve academic success; and

WHEREAS, some of the most successful people in business and entertainment have dyslexia; and

WHEREAS, early identification and intervention are crucial to helping students with dyslexia reach their full academic potential; and

WHEREAS, the Orton-Gillingham method and other substantially similar methods have been shown to be an effective, evidence-based approach for teaching students with dyslexia by providing structured, multisensory instruction; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1124 proposes amendments to Tennessee Code Annotated to supplement the requirement that every student receives dyslexia screening in grades K-5; and

WHEREAS, this legislative effort will strengthen the requirement that Tennessee's education system is equipped to provide effective support for students with dyslexia, thereby fostering inclusive learning environments for all students, regardless of their learning challenges; and

WHEREAS, this bill also requires training for educators on additional methods so teachers are equipped with the necessary tools and strategies to meet the needs of students with dyslexia; and

WHEREAS, passage of House Bill 1124 will strengthen the requirement that students with dyslexia receive the support and resources they need to succeed academically, leading to improved outcomes in literacy development across Tennessee's schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knox County Board of Education recommends that the legislation be amended to allow other substantially similar methods to be used in addition to the Orton-Gillingham Method; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knox County Board of Education strongly supports the passage of House Bill 1124, which amends Tennessee Code Annotated to strengthen the requirement that every student receives dyslexia screening; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Knox County Board of Education calls upon the Tennessee General Assembly to pass this important legislation and make dyslexia screening and specialized instruction a priority for Tennessee's public education system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Knox County Board of Education commits to supporting the implementation of the provisions outlined in House Bill 1124, including the necessary training for teachers for the successful delivery of dyslexia services and intervention.

Confirmed as an action of the Board:

Betsy Henderson, Chair

Knox County Board of Education

Date: March 6, 2025