

Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia; Sub. for HB 2602

Sub. for HB 2602 establishes the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia (Task Force), which will advise and make recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, and the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) regarding matters concerning the use of evidence-based practices for students with dyslexia. Recommendations and resource materials must:

- Research and recommend evidence-based reading practices to address dyslexia or characteristics of dyslexia for use by schools;
- Research and recommend high quality pre-service and in-service professional development activities to address reading difficulties like dyslexia, including identification of dyslexia and effective reading interventions to be used in schools and applicable degree programs;
- Study and examine state and federal law, rules and regulations, and the implementation of such laws and rules and regulations that affect students with dyslexia; and
- Identify valid and reliable screening and evaluation assessments and protocols that can be used, as well as the appropriate personnel to administer such assessments, in order to identify children with reading difficulties, such as dyslexia or the characteristics of dyslexia.

The Task Force will be composed of the following 16 voting members:

- One Senate member and one elementary school classroom teacher appointed jointly by the chairperson and ranking minority member of the Senate Committee on Education;
- One House member and one elementary school classroom teacher appointed jointly by the chairperson and ranking minority member of the House Committee on Education;
- One member from the KSBE appointed by the KSBE, who will serve as the Task Force chairperson;
- One professor employed by a state educational institution with specialized expertise in effective evidence-based reading practices for dyslexia appointed by the President of the Kansas Board of Regents;
- One public school principal appointed by the United School Administrators of Kansas;
- Four parents of children with a diagnosis of dyslexia to be individually appointed by Keys for Networking, Inc.; Families Together, Inc.; Decoding Dyslexia Johnson

County; and the International Dyslexia Association Kansas Missouri Branch, who should be appointed with an effort to provide statewide representation, if possible;

- One member appointed by the Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators;
- One elementary school building-level reading specialist appointed by the KSBE;
- One elementary school special education teacher appointed by the KSBE;
- One licensed psychologist or speech-language pathologist who diagnoses dyslexia as a part of such person's practice appointed by the Task Force chairperson; and
- One member identified as a non-profit service provider for children diagnosed with dyslexia appointed by the chairperson of the Task Force.

The Task Force will also include the following three ex officio, non-voting members:

- One Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) licensed attorney appointed by the KSDE;
- One licensed attorney familiar with dyslexia appointed jointly by the chairpersons of the House Committee on Education and Senate Committee on Education; and
- One member appointed by the Disability Rights Center of Kansas.

The Task Force chairperson will call an organizational meeting of the Task Force on or before July 15, 2018. At such organizational meeting, members will elect a vice-chairperson from the membership of the Task Force and consider dates for future meetings, the agendas for such meetings, and the need for electing a facilitator to assist in discussions. The Task Force is limited to meeting no more than six times in 2018; may hold meetings by telephone or video conference, if necessary; and may meet at any time and place within the state on the call of the chairperson. A quorum of the Task Force is nine members, and all actions of the Task Force must be by motion adopted by a majority of those members present when there is a quorum. The Task Force's work will be completed by January 2, 2019, and a report prepared and submitted to the Governor, the Legislature, and the KSBE by January 30, 2019.

If approved by the Legislative Coordinating Council, members of the Task Force attending meetings authorized by the Task Force will be paid amounts for expenses, mileage, and subsistence, as provided by law. Additionally, staff of the Office of Revisor of Statutes, the Kansas Legislative Research Department, and the Division of Legislative Administrative Services are required to provide assistance as may be requested by the Task Force.