



Early Literacy Screener Task Force

April 2, 2021
2:30-3:45 p.m.

Welcome/Introductions

Co-Chair Trina Hall, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, welcomed everyone and asked each member to introduce themselves and share their interest in serving on this task force.

Review Task Force Purpose

Trina provided an overview the agenda and the charge of the task force, which is:

- To select an Early Literacy Screener in response to 2018 legislation for implementation beginning fall 2021
- To design an implementation and training plan for the early literacy screening tool selected and
- To establish where and how the tool fits within a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS).

Task Force Agreements

Trina asked that a few minutes be spent reviewing the team agreements together. Everyone agreed to use the agreements as presented. Each person on this committee brings a certain perspective. Please bring that to the table as the meetings progress. We want to surface different ideas and points of view as that will make our outcome stronger.

Overview of State Legislation related to Early Literacy Screeners

Members reviewed and briefly discussed their current understanding of the state legislation:

“Beginning in the 2021–22 school year, each school district must use multitiered systems of support (MTSS) to provide interventions to students in kindergarten through second grade who display indications of, or areas of weakness associated with, dyslexia. In order to provide school districts with the opportunity to intervene before a student's performance falls significantly below grade level, school districts must screen students in kindergarten through second grade for indications of, or areas associated with, dyslexia as provided in this section. (2)(a) School districts must use screening tools and resources that exemplify best practices, as described under RCW 28A.300.700.” ([RCW 28A.320.260](#))

Timeline

A state advisory team has worked for the past three years to develop dyslexia and early literacy resources, including selecting early literacy screening tools to fulfill the new requirement. Districts must select an early literacy screener for fall 2021 implementation, a list of screeners that have met the state criteria is provided to districts to support selection.

The Work of the Committee

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has done a thorough review of a set of possible early literacy screeners making sure they assess the skills that were identified that need to be assessed, making sure they pass through bias and sensitivity, and providing information on costs and

professional development. The Early Literacy Screener Task Force is charged with looking at these tools that already meet the state criteria, determining what is important to us and doing further review for what will work best in Bellingham Public Schools.

Our work will be in conjunction with the [Foundational Literacy Skills Curriculum Committee](#). The skills assessed with the Early Literacy Screener are the same skills that will be taught with the curriculum that is selected. One should not be done in isolation of the other.

Our task force will involve stakeholder groups to share out information and gather feedback, both formally and informally. Workgroups, stakeholder outreach, and /or independent review may be needed outside of the meeting dates and times.

State Definition of Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a specific learning disorder that is neurological in origin and is characterized by unexpected difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities that are not consistent with the person's intelligence, motivation, and sensory capabilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological components of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge (Senate Bill 6162 (2018)).

Readings and Resources

Members were asked to read through [OSPI's Implementation Guide: Early Screening of Dyslexia](#) to become familiar with the work the state has done and what the work of the task force.

In addition, some resources on dyslexia and early literacy were culled and made available for the task force for those interested in learning more on the topic.

Next Meeting: April 16, 2021, 2:30-3:45 via Zoom.

2021 Meeting Dates: 4/2, 4/16, 4/30, 5/14, 5/28