



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Reading Specialists, Corporation Test Coordinators, Special Education Directors

From: Alyson Traficante, Assessment Specialist, and Mary Williams, Assistant Director of Research and Assessment

Date: November 11, 2022

Subject: Participation Requested - Dyslexia Assessment Program Approval Committee

[Indiana Code 20-35.5](#) requires schools to conduct universal screening of students in kindergarten through grade two for learning characteristics related to dyslexia. In response to universal screening, students identified as “at risk” (or “at some risk”) for dyslexia must participate in additional diagnostic measures. The diagnostic measures indicate if there is a pattern of learning strengths/weakness and a need for support intervention. Schools may elect to provide these services to students in grade three and beyond. Dyslexia screeners and diagnostic assessments must be approved by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE). IDOE partners with a committee of Indiana educators each year to review screeners and ensure that they meet legislative requirements and minimum requirements for technical validity prior to approval.

IDOE is currently seeking committee members to review assessment program documentation for the 2023-2024 school year. This committee work often benefits school leaders through the opportunity to closely review different available assessment programs and to learn from colleagues and experts about how to best support students.

## **What does the work look like?**

Committee members receive assessment program review assignments from IDOE based on a pre-established timeline. Two weeks is typically provided for review of documentation. These reviews can be quite robust, as vendors submit evidence that they have met the criteria reflected in the [Indiana Dyslexia Assessments Evaluation Protocol](#). Each committee member will complete a rubric to score the adequacy of the program documentation. The committee will then meet virtually (typically for 60 to 90 minutes) to discuss and finalize the group determination. IDOE facilitates each step of this process.

## **Will training and support be provided?**

Yes, IDOE will provide training on how to use the rubric and will support committee discussions throughout the process. Other experts may also join discussions (i.e., university partners) to assist in the decision-making process.

## **When will this work occur?**

Training will occur January 25, 2023, at a time selected based on committee members' availability. Training is a one-day, virtual event. Reviews will be held from February 9, through April 7, 2023.

## **Would I have to communicate with assessment program vendors?**



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No, committee members will only communicate with IDOE staff and other committee members. The identity of all members will remain anonymous from all assessment program vendors.

## **Is travel required?**

No, all meetings for this committee will be virtual.

## **Will I earn Professional Growth Points (PGPs)?**

Yes, PGPs are awarded for the time spent both reviewing documentation and discussing with the committee. Committee members typically spend between 15 to 20 hours reviewing documentation over the course of the entire review period. One PGP is rewarded for each hour served.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the [2023-2024 Dyslexia Assessment Program Approval Committee Interest Survey](#) to share your interest. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with questions.