

Authorized Reading Specialist Trained in Dyslexia and Approved Training Program Guidance

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Senate Enrolled Act 217, Chapter 6, Section 3 states that no later than the 2019-2020 school year, each school corporation and charter school shall employ at least one (1) individual to serve as an authorized reading specialist trained in dyslexia. For a person to serve in this role, they must successfully complete, or currently be enrolled in, an Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) approved dyslexia training program. This individual does NOT need to have a reading specialist license or any other licensure or endorsement to fill this role. Each school corporation or charter school, regardless of size, is required to have one employee who meets these requirements and serves in this role.

This individual may work for an educational co-op that serves multiple school corporations and charter schools. Additionally, a school corporation and/or charter school may enter into an agreement with a service provider or another school corporation or charter school to obtain or share services provided by an authorized reading specialist trained in dyslexia.

School corporations and charter schools may choose an individual that is a current employee to complete the IDOE approved dyslexia program. For example, this employee may be a current teacher or hold a district level position. If the school corporation or charter does not have a current employee that will meet these requirements or are creating a new position to fulfill the requirements of SEA 217, this school may hire a new employee.

Each school corporation and charter school has the local control to decide the authorized reading specialist trained in dyslexia's role. IDOE, as a general rule, sees the role of this position as providing guidance and leadership to educators and students in all grade levels. More narrowly, this person will lead dyslexia work in their school corporation or charter school. This person may also work with teachers as a resource to provide information on dyslexia and guidance and training on interventions, identification, and screening of students. This person should also be fluent in the response to intervention (RTI) model. Ultimately, it is up to the discretion of the school corporation or charter school on how this person will serve. It is also at the discretion of the school corporation and charter school to determine if there are different roles and responsibilities this employee will handle in addition to the authorized reading specialist trained in dyslexia.

Currently, there are many educators in the State of Indiana that have successfully completed an approved training program prior to the signing of this legislation. If an individual has successfully completed an approved training program **between June 2010-November 2018**, your successful completion of an approved training program **WILL** count towards being considered an "authorized reading specialist trained in dyslexia." It is the responsibility of the individual who has previously successfully completed an approved program to provide evidence to the school corporation or charter school.