



Title and SEA 217 Dyslexia

Due to the passage of SEA 217, which require plans, screenings, and interventions beginning in the 2019-2020 school year to address the needs of students with dyslexia, several questions have been raised regarding how these new state requirements interact with federal programs, such as Title I. The following FAQs are provided to facilitate the intersection between the state and federal requirements for serving students with dyslexia through the Title I program.

Additional questions regarding federal grants can be sent to the assigned specialist for your LEA, found at www.doe.in.gov/grants. Additional questions regarding dyslexia can be sent to Joe Risch, IDOE's Reading Specialist with Training in Dyslexia, at jrisch1@doe.in.gov.

FAQ #1: Since state law now requires services for students with “at risk” or “at some risk” for the characteristics of dyslexia, can Title I schools still use Title I funding, staff, and supports to provide these services?

Answer: Yes. Title I is required to provide services for eligible children who are most at risk of failing Indiana's academic standards. In Title I schoolwide schools, the Title I funds must also focus upon upgrading the **entire** educational program of the school. Since Title I services frequently include literacy and numeracy interventions for students who need additional support, students with characteristics of dyslexia in Title I schools should have already been receiving Title I services to support their literacy needs. Moving forward, Title I school staff and teachers may provide interventions to struggling readers, including those “at risk” and “at some risk” for the characteristics of dyslexia. This should not change because of the newly enacted state law requirements. Due to the new supplement not supplant rules under Title I that requires LEAs to have a methodology to allocate state and local funds, rather than analyzing each individual activity to determine its supplemental nature, using Title I funds to provide state-required interventions to students with dyslexia is not considered supplanting. [Section 1114, 1115, and 1118(b) of *Every Student Succeeds Act*].

However, not all students with characteristics of dyslexia are enrolled in Title I schools. Title I funding must be used only at Title I schools. Students who are in need of dyslexia services who are **enrolled at non-Title I schools must be provided these services with state and local funds only**. The above guidance applies to both schoolwide and targeted assistance schools.

FAQ #2: Can the LEA use Title I or other federal funds to pay for training needed to have a reading specialist trained in dyslexia?

Answer: Yes. If the one individual required to be trained (the authorized reading specialist trained in dyslexia) in each school corporation or charter works in a Title I school and carries out literacy activities approved in the Title I grant, then Title I funds can pay for the training needed to complete the training in a dyslexia program approved by the department. If the LEA wishes to train additional individuals, such as one individual per elementary school, Title II or Title IV funds may support the training of these additional individuals. Title I could support the training of additional staff members at Title I schools. The supplement not supplant requirements of Title II and IV are different than Title I, and they **do** prohibit the funding being utilized for activities required by state law. If Title I is used to train the one (1) individual required by state law, then additional individuals beyond the minimum state requirements would be considered supplemental, and therefore able to be carried out through Title II and IV funding. However, Title II or Title IV could not provide the funding to train the one individual required by state law.

Title III funds must be supplemental to local, state, and federal law. Since an English learner must be provided equal access to interventions for students with characteristics of dyslexia like any other student, then Title III funds must not pay for the SEA 217 dyslexia requirements.

FAQ #3: Can the dyslexia services address the Title I service requirements at the same time, or do we have to run separate intervention groups?

Answer: If the Title I program and grant includes literacy services for students who are most at-risk of achieving Indiana's academic standards, and the services also are provided by a trained individual who is carrying out an approved program for students with dyslexia, then the Title I services and state-required dyslexia services can be accomplished at the same time. The school would not need to run two separate groups to demonstrate both state and federal requirements are being met.

FAQ #4: Can Title I or other federal funds be used to pay for the costs of the universal screener, including the administration of the screener?

Answer: No. The expectation is that all LEAs, whether or not they have federal funds, are carrying out progress monitoring and determining whether specific students are in need of additional academic support. The U.S. Department of Education's nonregulatory guidance states that universal screening, including the costs of the screener, as well as the time and effort to administer the screening, must not be paid for by federal funds.