

# Dyslexia

ACT 1268 is designed to ensure that the needs of all Arkansas children with dyslexia are effectively being met. Dyslexia is defined as “a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities.” This new law defines dyslexia, describes required screening and intervention, and lists specific required actions by the state, educational cooperatives, and school districts.

## Student Data

During the 2022-2023 school year, ScholarMade Achievement Place of Arkansas Charter Schools identified a total of 18 students showing characteristics of Dyslexia. All of these students received services through an approved intervention program.

## Universal Screening

ACT 1268 required **universal screening** in Kindergarten through 2nd grade for indicators of Dyslexia, as well as selective screening in grades 3rd-6th.

ScholarMade Achievement Place Public Charter Schools will continue to administer K-2 screenings. Examples include the **DIBELS** (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), **DSA** (Developmental Spelling Analysis), and **AR-RAN** (Arkansas Rapid Automatized Naming Screener) and NWEA Map Reading Fluency assessment.

## Dyslexia Program

ACT 1039 requires all Arkansas schools to have a Dyslexia Program in place to further evaluate students identified as having characteristics of dyslexia, and then to tutor those students who require intervention. ScholarMade Achievement Place of Arkansas Charter Schools uses the Sonday System offers structured, systematic, multisensory reading intervention for beginning readers through the end of 2nd grade reading level. Each lesson plan uses proven Orton-Gillingham methods to provide effective intervention in small group settings.