

October 22, 2019

Dear Chairwoman Lehner, Ranking Minority Member Teresa Fedor, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

We are writing in response to Senate Bill 102 and 200 addressing initiatives related to dyslexia. As members of the Ohio Association for Teacher Education (OATE), we applaud the Senate Education Committee’s attention to this important issue.

The *Ohio Association of Teacher Educators* (OATE)is a professional organization comprised of faculty, administrators, pre-service teachers, graduate students, and P-12 school district personnel.  OATE is the only organization in *Ohio Confederation of Teacher Education Organizations* (OCTEO) that represents individual educators in all disciplines.  OATE is an award winning state unit/affiliate of the *Association of Teacher Educators* *(ATE)* established in 1920.

Based on earlier testimony, we thought it might be helpful for the Committee to know more about what Ohio’s educator preparation programs are doing to prepare future educators to work effectively with students with dyslexia. In fact, Ohio’s educator preparation programs have made concerted efforts to prepare future teachers to identify students with language-based learning disabilities and employ research-based intervention strategies.

While there was no official requirement regarding dyslexia in teacher preparation programs prior to 11/11/2016, most teacher preparation programs did include preparation in this area, primarily in their reading courses.  Legislation that passed in 2015-2016 and went into effect on 11/11/2016, [OAC 3333-1-05 k](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3333-1-05), requires that all teacher preparation programs include **Effective Methods of Instruction for Individuals with Dyslexia** in accordance with the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) Standards.  Each teacher preparation program must provide evidence of how the program’s curriculum includes the IDA standards when the program goes through ODHE program review.  Each new program and existing program must meet the IDA standards in order to gain state approval/re-approval. for various grade levels, Graduates of these programs are uniquely qualified to meet the needs of all learners in Ohio’s classrooms.

Each teacher preparation program in Ohio is also required to provide preparation in Reading in accordance with the standards outlined in the  Reading Core Requirement that went into effect in 2003-2004 ([ORC 3319.24](http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3319.24) and [OAC 3301-24-05](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3301-24-05)). In addition to the Reading Core Requirement, in 2016-2017, the state revised the [Ohio Reading Competencies](https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Early-Learning/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee-District-Resources/Approved-List-of-Research-Based-Reading-Instructio/Reading_Competencies.pdf.aspx) to include more emphasis on dyslexia and each teacher preparation provider in Ohio is required to incorporate these into each program’s curricula.  In February 2018, the state revised the [Reading Core Requirement as well as the requirement for all Reading Endorsement](https://secure-web.cisco.com/1kg7NwU3RWjf6DRGug8OvTFE4zmA36oMQeNkBxb7UFFeT465X5FUpaEnUPs4HzbF8r7D3CESfrBNX3eyljf9AHzqdCaFPRASdU54s-SUBJyWx-TTzUMJDZ14L_rqm1EKi6G3FhAyRhywPeEIw-0p4ILyvpoUTyi7AHty5tNoTMiMHVJPfZirC9VSLocIltG9vcpyb-_dpyBMQDhvCG6axgAFoAnno25ZnSaWvftWblGvfVCeSbxjpU-o8eKb2nLRy2Q7Dwd88GKxxYxvXJHadCZxFPhd72KQLzj-LKOIX-aI0uvmcAOfUvgKdgUHPoR37B4M30eF7sOrUuha_mgPDNg2q7HP-sX6-uw4m457S9yNGW6Iil4CGvjXVw8uCBfO-UONtZsmpYlNDXIUjm98FBGBDzSAT85Y3SF5-RziVGAu-P2SZmJXgL66uGIdYeOiOsGj25uviFNq2nbmS0NThKUQjhmkryem7vMehy09fPM4NJk7AoavRO9vTWwriKesrwxvbsX9WmNqe_gXpaot30A/https%3A//www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/education-prep/documents/Reading%2520Core%2520Standards%2520February%25202018_0.pdf) programs.  Each program must now demonstrate alignment to the standards outlined in that requirement.

We hope that you will find this information helpful. As the Senate Education Committee continues this important work, please know that we stand ready to assist and support your efforts.

Sincerely,

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