
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



Prepared by: Rachel E. Snyder, Senior Staff Attorney

February 14, 2020

2019 Wisconsin Act 86 [2019 Assembly Bill 110]

Developing a Dyslexia and Related Conditions Guidebook

2019 Wisconsin Act 86 provides for the development and publication of a guidebook relating to dyslexia and related conditions.

Specifically, the act requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to develop a guidebook on dyslexia and related conditions, published for informational purposes only, for parents, guardians, teachers, and administrators. DPI must publish the guidebook on its website and must review and, if appropriate, revise the guidebook every three school years, in consultation with the Wisconsin Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) and the Wisconsin State Reading Association (WSRA). The act also requires that school boards include a link to the guidebook on their school district websites.

Guidebook

The act includes a definition of dyslexia for purposes of the guidebook and requires that the guidebook be developed in consultation with an advisory committee. The act requires that the guidebook include at least a description of the following:

- Screening processes and tools available to identify dyslexia and related conditions.
- Interventions and instructional strategies that have been shown to improve the academic performance of pupils with dyslexia and related conditions.
- Resources and services related to dyslexia and related conditions that are available to pupils, parents and guardians, and educators.

Advisory Committee

The advisory committee has 19 members, appointed by the state superintendent, as follows:

- One representative of DPI.
- Nine members from recommendations provided by the Wisconsin Branch of the IDA, one of whom must be appointed cochairperson.
- Nine members from recommendations provided by the WSRA, one of whom must be appointed cochairperson.

A person may not be appointed to the advisory committee if he or she has a financial interest in entities that develop, sell, or market products relating to screening or assessing reading; teaching reading; or treating reading difficulties. A person is also disqualified from appointment if he or she received income to provide training on one of these products and the training happened within the previous 12 months.

Timelines

The advisory committee must be appointed within approximately six months following the effective date of the act. Within approximately one year after the advisory committee members have been appointed, the advisory committee must submit a draft guidebook to DPI and to the appropriate standing committees of the Legislature. DPI must publish a finalized guidebook on its website within approximately three months of receiving the draft guidebook from the advisory committee.¹ As discussed above, DPI must then review and, if appropriate, revise the guidebook every three school years thereafter, in consultation with the Wisconsin Branch of the IDA and the WSRA.

Effective date: February 7, 2020

RES:mca;jal

¹The act specifically provides that: (1) all members of the advisory committee must be appointed by the first day of the seventh month after the effective date; (2) the draft guidebook must be submitted to DPI by the first day of the twelfth month after the date on which all members of the advisory committee are appointed; and (3) DPI must publish a final guidebook on its website by the first day of the fourth month after the date on which DPI receives the draft guidebook.