



**PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION**

1     **AN ACT to create** 115.28 (66) of the statutes; **relating to:** employing a dyslexia  
2           specialist at the Department of Public Instruction and making an  
3           appropriation.

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill requires the state superintendent of public instruction to employ a dyslexia specialist with certain experience and qualifications to do all of the following:

1. Provide schools with information, technical assistance, and support related to dyslexia and related disorders and to addressing the needs of pupils with dyslexia and related disorders.

2. Increase professional awareness in schools, and instructional competencies of teachers, to meet the educational needs of pupils with dyslexia and related disorders or identified with risk characteristics associated with dyslexia and related disorders.

3. Develop implementation guidance and make recommendations to the state superintendent for adoption of comprehensive, scientifically based reading instruction programs to be used to assist regular education teachers and special education teachers to recognize educational needs of and improve literacy outcomes for pupils with dyslexia and related disorders or identified with risk characteristics associated with dyslexia and related disorders, including recommendations related to increasing the availability of online professional development programs and materials.

The bill authorizes a new position at the Department of Public Instruction for this purpose.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 115.28 (66) of the statutes is created to read:

2           115.28 **(66)** DYSLEXIA SPECIALIST. (a) Employ a dyslexia specialist who has all  
3 of the following qualifications:

4           1. The individual is a dyslexia therapist, licensed psychologist, licensed  
5 speech-language pathologist, or certified dyslexia training specialist.

6           2. The individual has a minimum of 3 years of experience in screening,  
7 identifying, and treating dyslexia and related disorders.

8           3. The individual has received advanced training in, and is knowledgeable  
9 about, dyslexia and related disorders and using interventions and treatments that  
10 are evidence-based, multisensory, direct, explicit, structured, and sequential in the  
11 areas of phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

12           (b) Employ a dyslexia specialist under par. (a) to do all of the following:

13           1. Provide schools with information, technical assistance, and support related  
14 to dyslexia and related disorders and to addressing the needs of pupils with dyslexia  
15 and related disorders.

16           2. Increase professional awareness in schools, and instructional competencies  
17 of teachers, to meet the educational needs of pupils with dyslexia and related  
18 disorders or identified with risk characteristics associated with dyslexia and related  
19 disorders.

20           3. Develop implementation guidance and make recommendations to the state  
21 superintendent for adoption of comprehensive, scientifically based reading

1 instruction programs to be used to assist regular education teachers and special  
2 education teachers to recognize educational needs of and improve literacy outcomes  
3 for pupils with dyslexia and related disorders or identified with risk characteristics  
4 associated with dyslexia and related disorders, including recommendations related  
5 to increasing the availability of online professional development programs and  
6 materials.

7 **SECTION 2. Fiscal changes.**

8 (1) In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the appropriation to the department  
9 of public instruction under s. 20.255 (1) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2019-20  
10 is increased by \$47,500 to increase the authorized FTE positions for the department  
11 by 1.0 GPR position on January 1, 2020, for the purpose of employing the dyslexia  
12 specialist described in s. 115.28 (66). In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the  
13 appropriation to the department of public instruction under s. 20.255 (1) (a), the  
14 dollar amount for fiscal year 2020-21 is increased by \$95,000 to provide funding for  
15 the position authorized under this subsection.

16 **SECTION 3. Effective date.**

17 (1) This act takes effect on the day after publication, or on the 2nd day after  
18 publication of the 2019 biennial budget act, whichever is later.

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(END)