

MEETING NOTICE

New Hampshire State Advisory Committee on the Education of Children/Students with Disabilities - Reading Subcommittee Meeting

Date: 6 Set 2023

Time: 4:45-5:30pm

Location: Granite State College Room 103

Zoom link:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83846306180?pwd=oO2KqHbNS34y4aLbvkgTtGJMuF0Vl6.1>

Meeting ID: 838 4630 6180

Passcode: qn7QCt

Purpose of the NH SAC Reading Subcommittee:

The Reading Subcommittee's purpose is to advise the NH's State Advisory Committee on the Education of Children/Students with Disabilities (SAC) on issues related to reading, spelling, and written expression instruction, and achievement in students with disabilities. Specifically, the SAC Reading Subcommittee will:

- advise the NH SAC regarding unmet needs within the state in the reading, spelling, and written expression education of children/students with disabilities and propose corrective actions.
- promote communication, education, and cooperation to ensure that educators and parents have the necessary tools to improve educational outcomes for New Hampshire's students with disabilities with regards to reading, spelling, and written expression needs
- assist NH's SAC in supporting and educating the state on the importance of funding programs and delivery of services to children with disabilities in the areas of reading, spelling and written expression.

Agenda

Greeting

Attendance/confirm quorum

New business

- Review of content Annual report content
- Consideration of a letter to Commissioner Edulblut

NH Special Education Advisory Committee Reading Subcommittee submission to the 2022-2023
Annual report – DRAFT
Sept 2023

The NH Special Education Advisory Committee reading subcommittee developed recommendations to further evidence-based literacy instruction in NH schools to support students with language-based learning disabilities.

The subcommittee reviewed the 2016 dyslexia law (HB344, RSA 200:58-62) to identify successes as well as opportunities for increased support of students and teachers. The subcommittee recognizes the potential positive impact of two recent efforts toward supporting students with dyslexia and related disorders. First, the subcommittee acknowledges the substantial effort of the NH DOE to bring LETRS training to NH educators, parents, and administrators. This initiative aligns with the goals of the 2016 law to provide professional development resources to teachers and administrators to support the “Recognition of the characteristics of dyslexia and related disorders... and evidence-based interventions and accommodations for dyslexia and related disorders” (RSA 200:61, I (a-b)). Second, HB377 was passed into law in the 2022-2023 legislative session to improve screening and intervention. HB377 amended RSA 200:59 to require “evidenced-based” screeners for dyslexia and related disorders at least twice a year from kindergarten through third grade. It requires that if a student does not meet benchmark scores, the parents must be notified, and a secondary assessment must occur within 30 days. The law expands the RSA to apply to chartered public schools in addition to public schools.

To continue the momentum of successes toward improved support of students with dyslexia and related disorders, the subcommittee identified the following recommendations, based on review of the current laws, the primary literature, and parent and professional experience:

- Screeners for dyslexia and related disorders must include a test of rapid naming.
- Screeners should be administered for all elementary school grades.
- Require a reading specialist in every chartered public and public school.
- Purchase a Learning Ally license (audiobooks for students with language-based learning disabilities) for all school districts.
- Requiring that parents get the results of all screeners and testing.
- Parents are notified of what specific interventions are being used with their children.

Future subcommittee work will further consider recommendations of best practices for all “specific learning disabilities” including dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia. In addition, the subcommittee will be looking for the results of the pilot effort associated with the statewide improvement plan to explore the potential benefits of a universal screener.