

**2009-2010 Dyslexia Program
Professional Development Opportunities
Serving Region 10 Schools**

All titles are available on-site and by request as of 07/01/09

Cursive Handwriting: Complying with the New ELA TEKS *New*

In this session, participants will explore the benefits of cursive handwriting, especially for students with dyslexia and related reading difficulties. Participants will learn how handwriting can improve spelling skills, written composition, and self-confidence. Teachers will reap the benefits as student handwriting becomes more legible.

Dyslexia: District Procedures for Revising District and Campus Plans

Dyslexia State Law TEC §38.003, and State Board of Education Rule TAC §74.28 outline procedures for the identification, placement, and instruction of students with dyslexia. This session will help districts to understand the requirements for developing district procedures for dyslexia, or it will assist participants in revising district protocols that are already in place.

LETRS - Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (*District must provide materials.*)

- **The Alphabetic System: Exploring Spelling/English Orthography (Grades K-6)**
English orthography uses twenty-six alphabet letters. An English grapheme (letter) may have as many as four letters that map to only one phoneme (sound), making spelling English harder than reading English. This session will assist participants in identifying why English orthography is one of the most challenging alphabetic systems. Little understood principles of English orthography (spelling) will be explored. Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) by Louisa Moats content and workbook will be used.
- **Beginning Spelling and Writing (Grades K-2)**
Rethinking what goes into learning to write and how best to teach beginning writing to children in grades K-2 will be outlined. Contrasting children's writing to that of adults; using a rubric to describe children's writing to estimate their instructional needs, examining the relationship between writing skill development and composition quality, and considering the differences between written and spoken language, and how to structure writing tasks is the focus of this hands-on session. Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) by Louisa Moats content and workbook will be used.
- **The Four P's of Phonological Awareness: Phonological Processing, Phonetics, Phonemic Awareness and Phonics (K-6)**
Linguistic differentiation between phonological processing, phonetics, phoneme awareness, and phonics will be outlined including detailing how the phonological progression unfolds from recognizing rhyme through phoneme segmenting, blending, and manipulation. The 44 consonant and vowel sounds will be taught. Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) by Louisa Moats content and workbook will be used.

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- **Reaching Tweens and Teens: The Reading and Writing Connection (5-12)**
This session is for middle and high school teachers who wish to learn specific procedures for teaching reading comprehension through skill and strategy instruction that involves written responses. The focus will be for participants to: review the causes of reading comprehension difficulties, know the research consensus on teaching reading comprehension, understand the importance of vocabulary knowledge for comprehension, explore text structure, learn to implement a model for comprehension strategy instruction, and plan for school-wide support of routines and study strategies. Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) by Louisa Moats content and workbook will be used
- **Strategies for Comprehending Text: From the Basic to the Complex (2-6)**
Comprehension is determined by a number of factors: the text itself, verbal ability and background knowledge of the reader, the circumstances under which reading is conducted, and the purpose and nature of the reading assignment. Selected strategies supported by research will be explored. Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) by Louisa Moats content and workbook will be used.
- **Syllabication and Advanced Decoding for Dyslexic Students (4-12)**
Evaluating one's own knowledge of word structure is the first step in understanding and articulating word structure and decoding. Anglo-Saxon, Norman French, Latin, and Greek historical layers to English will be reviewed. Phoneme-grapheme mapping to single-syllable words, and identification, categorization, and combining the six predictable syllable structures in written English (and the exceptions) will be explored. Past-tense, plural words, inflections, a lesson for teaching recognition of big words, common roots, and a lesson routine for teaching syllabication and morphology will be practiced. Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) by Louisa Moats content and workbook will be used.
- **Understanding and Improving Fluency in Dyslexic Students (1-8)**
Understanding the concepts of automaticity and reading fluency; the subtypes, common causes and consequences of dysfluency, and why fluency-based measurements are important will be explored. Learning how to calculate, record, and chart fluency results, plus strategies for fluency building will be practiced. Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) by Louisa Moats content and workbook will be used.
- **Vocabulary: What Every Dyslexia Teacher Should Know (3-8)**
Word meanings are multi-faceted, learned from direct definition and exposure to contextual use, and vocabulary knowledge is essential for reading comprehension. Strong vocabularies predict strong phonology understanding. Vocabulary development, analysis of semantic features in words, word structure, and instructional planning will be outlined during this session. Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) by Louisa Moats content and workbook will be used.

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Multi-sensory Grammar© (2-12) *(District must provide materials.)*

Participants will learn sequential steps in teaching sentence construction and multisensory methods for teaching the eight parts of speech. This half-day session is for elementary regular education teachers, elementary and secondary special education teachers, educational therapists, and dyslexia specialists.

The NEW ELA TEKS and the Dyslexic Student: Reinforcing Instruction in General Education Classrooms (K-2, 3-5, 6-8 or 9-12) *New*

As outlined in the NEW ELA TEKS, students are expected to learn and apply the most common letter-sound correspondences, write with more proficient spelling of inflectional endings including plurals and past tense, use structural clues to recognize complex words, and determine meanings of derivatives by applying knowledge of the meanings of root words. Such expectations will, no doubt, be challenging for dyslexic students. Join us for a day of interactive strategies as we learn about the new ELA TEKS and how they will impact teaching and learning.

Parent Information Sessions

TAC §74.28 (State Board of Education Rule) (h) used to state that each school district *may* provide a parent education program for parents/guardians of students with dyslexia and related disorders. Now, however, the law states that a school district *shall* provide a parent education program. This session will provide awareness of characteristics of dyslexia and related disorders, information on testing and diagnosis of dyslexia, information on effective strategies for teaching dyslexic students, and awareness of information on modification, especially modification allowed for standardized testing.

Scientific Spelling© (K-8) *(district must provide materials)*

Participants will learn reliable spelling patterns of the English language, the major spelling rules, and a multisensory procedure for permanently memorizing irregular words. Scientific Spelling© supplements any state-adopted spelling textbook, and this session is for elementary regular education teachers, elementary and secondary special education teachers, educational therapists, and dyslexia specialists.