

## **DYSLEXIA**

In 2015, Governor Asa Hutchinson signed into law ACT 1268. ACT 1268 is designed to ensure that the needs of all Arkansas children with dyslexia are effectively being met. Dyslexia is defined as a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities.” This new law defines dyslexia, describes required screening and intervention, and lists specific required actions by the state, educational cooperatives, and school districts.

In October of 2016, the Arkansas Department of Education updated the rules governing the implementation of ACT 1268. The updated rules can be found [here](#).

In April 2017, the Arkansas Legislature passed ACT 1039 (SB 708) to amend and clarify provisions regarding Dyslexia screening and intervention, and to add specific enforcement provisions tied to school accreditation. ACT 1039 also added new public posting requirements. The information on this page meets or exceeds all posting requirements.

## **STUDENT DATA**

During 2021-2022 the Ozark Mountain School District identified a total of 23 students showing characteristics of Dyslexia. All of these students were placed in an approved intervention program.

Bruno-Pyatt School- 11 students identified; 11 students served  
St. Joe School-5 students identified; 5 students served  
Western Grove School- 7 students identified; 7 students served

Note: These are composite totals for the school year. If students leave the district, these numbers may not exactly match final numbers on state reports.

## **INITIAL SCREENING**

ACT 1268 required universal screening in Kindergarten through 2nd grade for indicators of Dyslexia, as well as initial screening in grades 3rd-12th. The Ozark Mountain School District conducts initial screenings in Kindergarten through 2nd grade for indicators of Dyslexia. In addition, we also screen any student in the 3rd-12th grade who appears to be experiencing difficulty (as noted by the classroom teacher or Response to Intervention Data).

Specific screening tools used by the Ozark Mountain School District may include:

Level I: STAR Early Literacy and STAR reading assessment (online assessment of reading skills), DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), DSA (Developmental Spelling Analysis), and AR-RAN (Arkansas Rapid Automated Naming Screener)

Level II: CTOPP-2 (Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing-2), WRMT-III (Woodcock Reading Mastery Test III); GORT-5 (Gray Oral Reading Test-5th edition); TOWRE-2 (Test of Word Reading Efficiency- 2nd edition); TWS-5 (Test of Written Spelling-5th edition); OWLS-II (Oral and Written Language Scale - 2nd edition)

## **DYSLEXIA INTERVENTIONISTS**

School Districts must have trained “Dyslexia Interventionists” as another component of the law. Ozark Mountain School District has 6 interventionists.

Bruno-Pyatt School- Wendy Nelson - trained in Connections

St. Joe School- Diane Grinder - trained in Connections; Heather Knapp - trained in Wilson Reading Program

Western Grove School- Sara Campbell - trained in Connections; Monique Thomas - trained in Wilson Reading Program; Terin Hollis - trained in Connections and Wilson Reading Program

Additionally, Pattie Wheeler and Suzann Grant, at the Ozarks Unlimited Resource Educational Cooperative, serve as the regional specialists for our district. Terin Hollis serves as the OMSD Dyslexia Coordinator.

## **DYSLEXIA RESOURCE GUIDE**

The Arkansas Department of Education has created a Dyslexia Resource Guide to provide guidance for districts, schools, and teachers in order to effectively meet the requirements of ACT 1268. [This resource guide can be accessed here.](#)

Ozark Mountain School District uses Connections 3D supplemented with the Heggerty Phonological and Phonemic Awareness and the Wilson Reading Program.

## **DYSLEXIA PROGRAM**

ACT 1039 requires all Arkansas schools to have a Dyslexia Program in place to further evaluate students identified as having characteristics of dyslexia, and then to tutor those students who require intervention. Ozark Mountain School District uses Connections 3D supplemented with the Heggerty Phonological and Phonemic Awareness and the Wilson Reading Program as their Dyslexia Program.

1. Program(s) used in 2021-2022: Wilson, Connections, Heggerty
2. Number of students that received dyslexia intervention in 2021-2022: 23
3. Total number of students enrolled in your school during 2021-2022 that have been identified in any year: 23