



State University Education Deans

Member Institutions

December 4, 2020

Bowling Green
State University
419-372-7403

Central State University
937-376-6007

Cleveland State University
216-687-3737

Kent State University
330-672-2202

Miami University
513-529-6317

Ohio University
740-593-9449

The Ohio State University
614-292-1414

Shawnee State University
740-351-3451

The University of Akron
330-972-7680

The University of Cincinnati
513-556-2321

The University of Toledo
419-530-6126

Wright State University
937-775-2822

Youngstown State University
330-941-3215

Dear Chairwoman Lehner, Ranking Minority Member Teresa Fedor, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

We are writing in response to House Bill 436 addressing initiatives related to dyslexia. As members of the State University of Education Deans (SUED) and the Ohio Association for Private Colleges of Teacher Education (OAPCTE), we applaud the attention to this important issue. Without reservation, we endorse increased attention to literacy, early intervention, and screening for dyslexia.

As the legislature considers actions to advance professional development and knowledge of inservice teachers, we thought it might be helpful for Ohio's legislators to know more about what Ohio's educator preparation programs are doing to prepare future educators to work effectively with students with dyslexia. In fact, Ohio's educator preparation programs have made concerted efforts to prepare future teachers to identify students with language-based learning disabilities and employ research-based intervention strategies.

While there was no official requirement regarding dyslexia in teacher preparation programs prior to 11/11/2016, most teacher preparation programs included preparation in this area, primarily in their reading courses. Legislation that passed in 2015-2016 and went into effect on 11/11/2016, [OAC 3333-1-05 k](#), requires that all teacher preparation programs include **Effective Methods of Instruction for Individuals with Dyslexia** in accordance with the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) Standards. Each teacher preparation program must provide evidence of how the program's curriculum includes the IDA standards when the program goes through ODHE program review. Each new program and existing program must meet the IDA standards in order to gain state approval/re-approval. For example, many programs have designed learning modules and simulations that align with IDA standards and integrated these into existing courses related to phonics and disciplinary literacy/content reading. We would be happy to provide access to one or more of these modules for the committee to review.

When the IDA requirement first went into effect, each program was required to submit a **Dyslexia Course Rating Tool** to demonstrate how the IDA Standards were being met in the program. In addition, The Ohio State University joined a consortium of other universities across the country to develop a certificate program that is accredited by the International Dyslexia Association ([International Dyslexia Association Accredits 9 Universities](#)). More than five years ago, Bowling Green State University implemented Ohio's first dual-licensure (general education and special education) inclusive early childhood program. Since then, numerous other public and private universities have done the same

for various grade levels, Graduates of these programs are uniquely qualified to meet the needs of all learners in Ohio's classrooms.

Each teacher preparation program in Ohio is also required to provide preparation in Reading in accordance with the standards outlined in the Reading Core Requirement that went into effect in 2003-2004 ([ORC 3319.24](#) and [OAC 3301-24-05](#)). In addition to the Reading Core Requirement, in 2016-2017, the state revised the [Ohio Reading Competencies](#) to include more emphasis on dyslexia and each teacher preparation provider in Ohio is required to incorporate these into each program's curricula. In February 2018, the state revised the [Reading Core Requirement as well as the requirement for all Reading Endorsement](#) programs. Each program must now demonstrate alignment to the standards outlined in that requirement.

We hope that you will find this information helpful. As the Senate Education Committee continues this important work, please know that we stand ready to assist and support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Dawn Shinew, Ph.D.
Chair, State University Education Deans
Dean and Professor
College of Education and Human Development
Bowling Green State University

Julie McIntosh, Ed.D.
President, Ohio Association for Private Colleges of Teacher Education
Dean and Professor
College of Education
Findlay University