

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 1016 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

As Engrossed: H4/12/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1891

By: Representatives Dotson, *F. Allen, Bentley, Bragg, Breaux, Brooks, Brown, Ennett, Evans, K. Ferguson, M. Hodges, Hudson, Lowery, Richardson, Scott, S. Smith, Vaught, D. Whitaker*

By: Senator Elliott

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE A NETWORK OF CERTIFIED ACADEMIC LANGUAGE THERAPISTS TO PROVIDE A SPECIALIZED DYSLEXIA INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA OR RELATED READING AND WRITTEN-LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE A NETWORK OF CERTIFIED ACADEMIC LANGUAGE THERAPISTS TO PROVIDE A SPECIALIZED DYSLEXIA INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA OR RELATED READING AND WRITTEN-LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 41, Subchapter 6, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-41-612. Certified Academic Language Therapists.

(a) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall:

(1) Create a network of Certified Academic Language Therapists to support public schools for the purpose of providing a specialized dyslexia instructional program designed to provide therapy to public school students with dyslexia or related reading and written-language difficulties;

(2) Establish and coordinate a dyslexia therapy training program



for educators to increase the number of Certified Academic Language Therapists available to provide diagnostic, explicit, systematic, multisensory language intervention that builds a high degree of accuracy, knowledge, and independence for public school students with dyslexia or written-language disorders;

(3) Annually convene the network of Certified Academic Language Therapists or dyslexia therapists in order to:

(A) Provide updated guidance;

(B) Create resources for public schools and parents, legal guardians, and persons standing in loco parentis of public school students;
and

(C) Review outcomes data for reading in this state; and

(4) Coordinate an International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council-accredited course to create additional pathways for certified teachers to develop proficiency in the science of reading in order to grow the network of dyslexia therapists.

(b) An education service cooperative may support the implementation of this section by providing additional dyslexia services through a consortium within the region.

/s/Dotson

APPROVED: 4/29/21