

Action Item No. G.2.c. Alabama State Board of Education, April 8, 2015

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DYSLEXIA SERVICES

WHEREAS, dyslexia is defined as a learning challenge that is neurological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities; and

WHEREAS, these difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the delivery of effective classroom instruction; and

WHEREAS, secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge; and

WHEREAS, dyslexia is highly prevalent, affecting one out of five individuals in some form, crossing racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines; and

WHEREAS, progress has been made in understanding dyslexia at a scientific level, including its epidemiology and cognitive and neurobiological bases; and

WHEREAS, diagnosis of dyslexia is critical and must lead to evidence-based, specialized instruction that is multisensory in nature; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes the need to specifically address dyslexia within the *Alabama Administrative Code*; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education shall also establish a dyslexia advisory council, appointing members that are representative of all who provide support to students with dyslexia, including, but not limited to, teachers, administrators, parents, students, dyslexia advocates, business and education partners, and clinicians specializing in identifying dyslexia:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That due to the significant educational

implications that may result for students with dyslexia, the Alabama State Board of Education calls for revision of the *Alabama Administrative Code* to acknowledge and address dyslexia and subsequent services needed to ensure the success of affected students.

Done this 8th day of April 2015