



WELCOME!

This event will start shortly. In the meantime,
visit us at OhioFamiliesEngage.osu.edu

Family Engagement that

BREAKS THROUGH



Ohio Statewide

Family Engagement Center

—at The Ohio State University



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER ON EDUCATION AND
TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT

There's a
new law?

I have to
do what?

Wait, how
many kids are
affected??

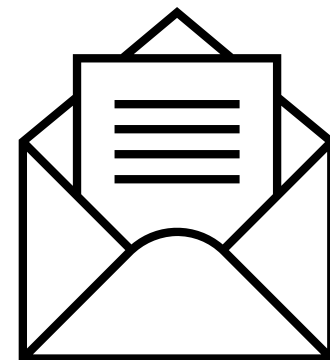
So can we use
the term
Dyslexia now?

New Ways of Communicating about Dyslexia in Ohio Schools

Dr. Meredith Wellman
Program Manager
The Ohio State University

Dr. Sherine Tambyraja
Ohio Dyslexia Administrator
Ohio Department of Education

Learning Objectives



- ✓ I understand the connection between school-home communication and building trust
- ✓ I'm able to apply general criteria to my communications to understand if they are “trust-building” or trust-eroding”
- ✓ I am aware of recent changes in Ohio's Education System to support students with Dyslexia.
- ✓ I am aware of resources I can use to write communications between school and home related to Dyslexia supports for children.



Trust is the willingness to be vulnerable to another based on the confidence that they are **benevolent**, **reliable**, **competent**, **honest**, and **open** (Hoy & Tschannen-Moran, 2003).

Applying Trust to Communication: General Criteria

- ✓ Is the **tone** collaborative, professional, and engaged?
- ✓ Is the **focus** oriented to academics?
- ✓ Does it **value families'** expertise?
- ✓ Is the **message** proactive, solutions-focused, and strategic?
- ✓ Is the **mood** inclusive, positive, and committed?

Dyslexia Definition

Ohio's dyslexia support laws define dyslexia as:

“a specific learning disorder that is neurological in origin and that is characterized by unexpected ***difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities*** not consistent with the person's intelligence, motivation, and sensory capabilities, which difficulties typically result from a ***deficit in the phonological component of language***”

Dyslexia Prevalence

- The percentage of students experiencing *characteristics of dyslexia* is reported as high as 15%-20% (Elliott & Grigorenko, 2014; Fletcher, et al., 2019; Odegard, et al. 2020).
- **Why is this range so large?**
- Dyslexia exists on a continuum



Ohio Dyslexia Laws

5 ways to know!



- Read Ohio Revised Code (legal language)
- Dyslexia Guidebook and webpage from Ohio Department of Education (for schools)
- ODE support: dyslexia@education.ohio.gov
- Dyslexia Resource Guide for Ohio Families
- Family Advocacy Groups
- Informal conversation with colleagues, friends

Ohio Dyslexia Laws

The Big Pieces



- Teacher Professional Development
- Screening for Kindergarteners and older grade level options
- Instructional support and resources
- Communication between schools and families

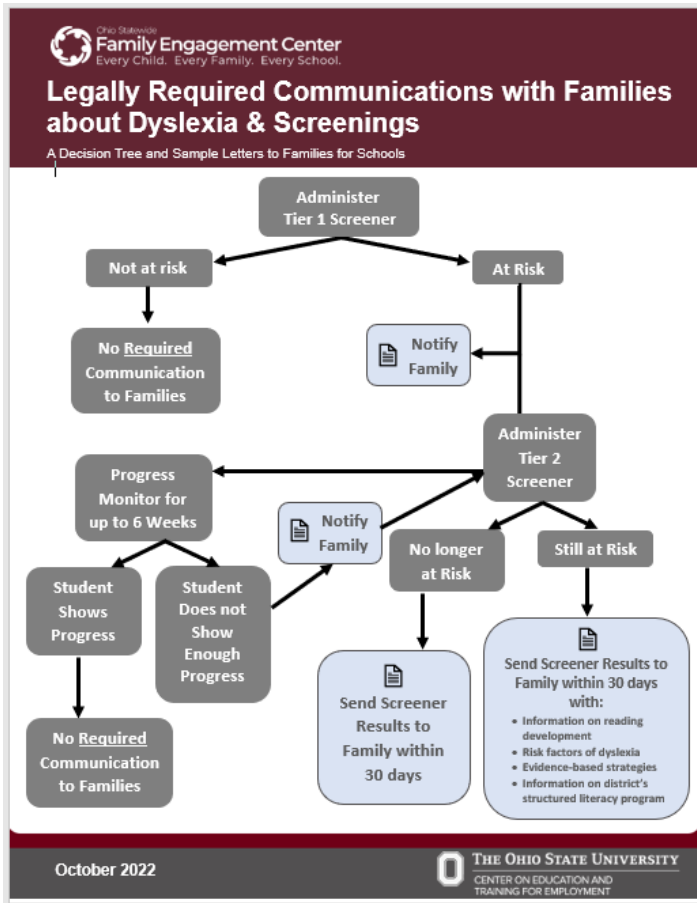
Ohio Dyslexia Laws

More about the Screenings

- Why – Early identification
- What – Universal/Tier 1, and follow up (Tier 2)
- When – Annually, starting 2023 school year
- Where – At your child's school

Communicating with Families

We're here
to help!

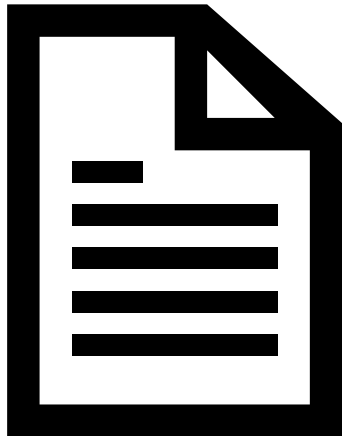


Minimum Requirements

- After Tier 1 screener, if “at risk”
- After Tier 2 screener, regardless of outcome
- After up to 6 weeks of progress monitoring

Sample Letters Schools Can Send

**After Tier 1
Screening Letter**



Template available

**After Tier 2
Screening Letter**



|-----Templates in progress-----|

**After Progress
Monitoring Letter,
Still at Risk**



Recap: Applying Trust to Communication

- ✓ Is the **tone** collaborative, professional, and engaged?
- ✓ Is the **focus** oriented to academics?
- ✓ Does it **value families'** expertise?
- ✓ Is the **message** proactive, solutions-focused, and strategic?
- ✓ Is the **mood** inclusive, positive, and committed?

Sample Request Families Can Make

For a Tier I Screening

Dear Teacher,

I have noticed that my child, _____, is having trouble in school with learning. I have noticed the following warning signs: _____. Given these warning signs, I would like my child to be screened for dyslexia as soon as possible.

Please give me a call so that we can discuss next steps for the screening, and talk about other steps that can be taken to get my child more support in the classroom.

Thank you,

Parent/Caregiver Name

Date



**How do you plan
to use these
resources?**



Opportunity for All

We are committed to making sure every child and family has opportunity, no matter who they are or where they live.



Questions?



THANK YOU FOR COMING!

OhioFamiliesEngage.osu.edu



Ohio Statewide
**Family
Engagement
Center**

—at The Ohio State University—



Ohio Statewide Family
Engagement Center



OhioSFEC@osu.edu



[@OhioEngage](https://twitter.com/OhioEngage)