

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 2-3.161 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.161)

7 Sec. 2-3.161. Definition of dyslexia; reading instruction
8 advisory group; handbook.

9 (a) The State Board of Education shall incorporate, in both
10 general education and special education, the following
11 definition of dyslexia:

12 Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is
13 neurobiological in origin. Dyslexia is characterized by
14 difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition
15 and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These
16 difficulties typically result from a deficit in the
17 phonological component of language that is often
18 unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the
19 provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary
20 consequences may include problems in reading comprehension
21 and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of
22 vocabulary and background knowledge.

23 (b) Subject to specific State appropriation or the

1 availability of private donations, the State Board of Education
2 shall establish an advisory group to develop a training module
3 or training modules to provide education and professional
4 development to teachers, school administrators, and other
5 education professionals regarding multi-sensory, systematic,
6 and sequential instruction in reading. This advisory group
7 shall complete its work before December 15, 2015 and is
8 abolished on December 15, 2015. The State Board of Education
9 shall reestablish the advisory group abolished on December 15,
10 2015 to complete the abolished group's work. The reestablished
11 advisory group shall complete its work before December 31, 2016
12 and is abolished on December 31, 2016. The provisions of this
13 subsection (b), other than this sentence, are inoperative after
14 December 31, 2016.

15 (c) The State Board of Education shall develop and maintain
16 a handbook to be made available on its Internet website that
17 provides guidance for pupils, parents or guardians, and
18 teachers on the subject of dyslexia. The handbook shall
19 include, but is not limited to:

20 (1) guidelines for teachers and parents or guardians on
21 how to identify signs of dyslexia;

22 (2) a description of educational strategies that have
23 been shown to improve the academic performance of pupils
24 with dyslexia; and

25 (3) a description of resources and services available
26 to pupils with dyslexia, parents or guardians of pupils

1 with dyslexia, and teachers.

2 The State Board shall review the handbook once every 4
3 years to update, if necessary, the guidelines, educational
4 strategies, or resources and services made available in the
5 handbook.

6 (Source: P.A. 99-65, eff. 7-16-15; 99-78, eff. 7-20-15; 99-602,
7 eff. 7-22-16; 99-603, eff. 7-22-16; 100-201, eff. 8-18-17.)

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
9 becoming law.