



Dear Portland Public Families:

Portland Public Schools is committed to equitable, balanced literacy instruction for all students in the five foundations of reading: phonics, phonological/phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. The Office of Teaching & Learning supports ongoing professional development for staff in literacy instruction that benefits all students and prevents reading difficulties.

In response to new dyslexia legislation (SB 612) that requires screening of every kindergarten and first grade student for risk factors of dyslexia and the training of at least one staff member related to dyslexia, Portland Public Schools has convened a group of instructional leaders to implement the following:

Teacher Training:

The legislation requires each K - 5 or K - 8 school to have at least one trained staff member in their building by January 2018. For the past two years, PPS has offered professional learning opportunities around Dyslexia. In spring of 2017, the state will release their dyslexia-related training opportunities and PPS will identify staff members to attend. Designated teachers will have completed training by January 2018.

Screening:

The legislation requires districts to universally screen kindergarten students in the fall, winter, and spring and grade 1 students in the fall using measures of phonological awareness, letter-sound correspondence, and rapid naming PPS currently uses DIBELS to screen for reading difficulties, one of the approved measures. In addition screening for family history in difficulty in learning to read will be included on the enrollment form by fall of 2018.

Parent Notification:

The legislation requires notifications are sent by school districts to parents and families of students who are identified as being at risk for reading difficulties based on the screening. The notification process will be based on guidance from the Oregon Department of Education and will be in place by fall of 2018.

This implementation plan is based on Oregon Dept. of Education's initial recommendations. We will continue to communicate with state leaders to address SB 612 requirements.