

Meeting Summary Dyslexia Working Group Meeting Friday, January 31, 2025

Attendees

- DWG: Jenny Imel, Brian Rose, Laura Swanson, Cindy Kanuch, Patrick McGinty, April Gerakos-Rooker, Janine Runfola, Michelle Qazi, Marcie Eichmann, Dyann Powell
- CDE: Rachael Lovendahl, Tammy Yetter, Emily Ottinger, Mandy Harris, Rhonda Haniford, Joanna Bruno, Paul Foster, Ellen Hunter
- Facilitators: Kara Schmitt and Betsy Kummer

Helpful Links:

- [Dyslexia Working Group | CDE](#)
- [Colorado Department of Education Dyslexia Handbook \(Feb. 2020\)](#)
- [Dyslexia Pilot Program](#)
- [Recording](#) (Passcode: 5z2&.c74)

Meeting Objectives:

- Legislative Updates, Budget Updates
- Confirming priorities for 2024-2025/ Initial recommendation drafts

Meeting Topics:

1. Welcome/Introductions

Facilitators welcomed attendees and led introductions.

2. CDE Updates

- a. Joanna Bruno provided updates on the State Board and CDE Strategic Plan (see attached PowerPoint slide deck for details)
- b. Paul Foster provided an update on ECEA Rules for paraprofessionals and the group shared questions and suggestions. Any attendees wishing to provide feedback prior to the February board meeting were encouraged to do so by sending feedback to eceastakeholderrules@cde.state.co.us or submitting comments via this online form [Rulemaking Testimony Form for the State Board of Education](#).
- c. Legislative Updates
 - i. Overall Session Updates:
 - Despite the session starting in early January, things have been slow to get started.
 - CDE presented at our SMART Act hearing last week, and the education committee started formally meeting this week.
 - The budget deficit remains the focal point/backdrop for this session.

ii. SBE

- In December, the SBE amended its legislative priorities to include references to students with significant reading deficiencies: *“Expands students’ access to quality, evidence-based reading instruction and continuing development of literacy skills through numerous pathways, including, but not limited to, early identification of students with significant reading deficiencies.”*
- Since then, four new members have been sworn in as members of the board and received a briefing during their January Board meeting regarding the READ Act.

iii. JBC

- The JBC is in the process of reviewing the supplemental budget for the current fiscal year.
- Once they wrap that up, they will start on the budget for next fiscal year (FY 25-26).
- CDE’s budget request regarding the READ Act training for multilingual learners, students with IEPs, and students identified with or at risk of dyslexia is scheduled to be heard on February 27th.
- If you’d like to express support for the budget request, you can contact members of the Joint Budget Committee. [Joint Budget Committee | Colorado General Assembly](#)

iv. Literacy Legislation

- We’re anticipating a few pieces of legislation that apply to the READ Act.
- They haven’t been introduced yet – but we can share them once they’re introduced.

3. Draft Recommendations

Kara Schmitt reviewed Tips for Drafting Recommendations and attendees formed two small groups to create initial drafts of DWG recommendations. Attendees shared feedback with one another on their drafts, then returned to small groups to make revisions. In future meetings, DWG members will continue to refine and finalize their recommendations.

4. Public Comment

No public comments were made during the meeting.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Friday, March 7, 2025 from 12:00pm to 2:00pm (Virtual)
- Friday, May 9, 2025 from 9:00am to 3:00pm (In Person): Location is TBD