

Dyslexia Working Group
September 13, 2024
Meeting Summary

Attendees

- Dyslexia Working Group - Jenny Imel, Brian Rose, Laura Swanson, Dyann Powell, Cindy Kanuch, Sarah Huffman, Patrick McGinty, Marcie Eichmann, April Gerakos-Rooker
- Colorado Department of Education - Rachael Lovendahl, Tammy Yetter, Emily Ottinger, Mandy Harris, Dr. Rhonda Haniford, Dr. Joanna Bruno, Dr. Paul Foster, Ellen Hunter
- Public - Laura Mitchell, Lindsay Drakos, and Anonymous Member
- Facilitators - Kara Schmitt and Betsy Kummer

Time and Location

- 9:00am - 3:00pm
- In person at MindSpark (455 S. Pierce St., Lakewood, CO 80226)
- Recording: <https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/fLeBo06k68KTAJOpZkqD40uoAPA6CLK-W4KmNUUxQZVtQuObViSB9ei6ggt2biy1.Lix9tKV0BJgm9pgf?startTime=1726238796000>
 - Passcode: m0tSQV?9

Helpful links:

- [Dyslexia Working Group | CDE](#)
- [Colorado Department of Education Dyslexia Handbook \(Feb. 2020\)](#)
- [Dyslexia Pilot Program](#)

Meeting Activities

Session Slides

1. Welcome/Introductions

Participants introduced themselves and a new member, parent representative April Genakos-Rooker, was welcomed.

1. Recap/Review

- Betsy Kummer reviewed the overall purpose of the DWG, roles/responsibilities, and expectations for DWG members. *(See slides #2-11.)*
- She also introduced a task to the group: while listening to presentations on policy, data, and updates from CDE, make note of opportunities that the DWG could potentially have in 2024-2025.

2. Policy Presentation and Q&A.

Melissa Bloom and Shelbie Konkel provided the group with a comprehensive review of the legislative process, what to anticipate in the next legislative session, and tips for engaging in the



legislative process. They also shared information about a budget request that is being made that builds on DWG recommendations from 2023-2024. *(See slides #12-47)*

3. Data Presentation

- Tammy Yetter provided updates on the latest data from READ Act, SRDs, and more - and how to access that data. *(See slides #48-52).*
- Mandy Harris shared that the ELSR office has cross-mapped recommendations from the Dyslexia Working Group annual reports, the Dyslexia Pilot annual reports, and the most recent WestEd evaluation and helped clarify what recommendations of the DWG are within CDE purview, outside CDE purview and related & current work. *(See slides #53-56.)*

4. Revisit prior recommendations/recap of where we are

- Joanna Bruno provided an update on ELAT, Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant, and the Nov SBE board agenda literacy item – *(Slide #59)*
- Ellen Hunter & Paul Foster provided an update on the Structured Literacy Program. *(Slide #58)*

5. Building from Strengths Exercise

The group generated a list of promising opportunities for 2024-2025 based on last year's work, as well as new information presented in the morning. Each opportunity was reviewed/assessed based on ease of implementation and potential for impact. Items that were determined to be potentially high impact and easy to implement will be prioritized for the year.

6. Organizing for Action

The DWG agreed to a virtual meeting on **November 15 from 9:00am - 11:00am.**

- The agenda will include an update on the State Board of Education Meeting, Legislative & Policy Update and Budget update and time to review the synthesized information generated in the Building from Strengths exercise.
- Members requested a way to contribute to the presentation that CDE will be making to the State Board of Education in early November. Facilitators agreed to share the recommendation tracker and create a space for comments on what DWG members want to amplify/highlight in the presentation.
- The group will also continue to explore ways to engage other advocacy groups in the field- this may include invites to upcoming meetings and other information sharing.

7. Public Comment/ Closing

- No public comments
- The meeting closed with members sharing their highest hopes for the year.

Upcoming Meetings

- Virtual Meeting November 15, 2024 from 9:00am to 11:00am
- In Person Meeting 2 Friday, January 31, 2025 from 9:00am to 3:00pm
- *Possible virtual session in March - TBD
- In Person Meeting 3 Friday, May 2, 2025 from 9:00am to 3:00pm