

## **Dyslexia Working Group Meeting Summary Notes Friday, March 7, 2025**

### **Attendees:**

DWG: Sarah Huffman, Janine Runfola, April Gerakos-Rooker, Patrick McGinty, Laura Swanson, Dyann Powell, Cindy Kanuch, Jamie Brackney

CDE: Emily Ottinger, Mandy Harris, Rhonda Haniford, Joanna Bruno, Rachael Lovendahl, Ellen Hunter

### **Time and Location:**

12:00pm to 2:00pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### **Recording:**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k4g7AIEPzbsA7l2fsQMtUVw8xtndDVi\\_/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k4g7AIEPzbsA7l2fsQMtUVw8xtndDVi_/view?usp=drive_link)

### **Helpful Links:**

[Dyslexia Working Group | CDE](#)

[Colorado Department of Education Dyslexia Handbook \(Feb. 2020\)](#)

[Dyslexia Pilot Program](#)

### **Meeting Objectives:**

- K-2 measures feedback
- Continuing with development of DWG recommendations

### **Meeting Activities:**

- **Welcome/Introductions**
  - DWG member intros and check-in
  - Review [meeting norms/public comment process](#)
- **CDE Updates/ Legislative and Budget Updates**
  - Joanna Bruno shared the following updates:
    - **Overall Budget**
      - The Colorado General Assembly is well into the 2025 legislative session, with Sunday marking the halfway point of the 120-day session.
      - The budget continues to be the biggest item this session as the legislature works to address a budget shortfall of nearly \$1 billion.
      - CDE budget hearing was earlier this week, and while legislators are tentatively slated to cut about \$10 million from CDE's operational

budget, they also gave tentative approval to the Department READ Act request:

- Reinvesting READ Act Funds \$3,361,59 Approved
- Thank you to everyone who signed the letter supporting the request – we really appreciate it.
- We'll know more once final decisions are made after the March economic forecast, which is scheduled for March 17th.
- **School Finance**
  - Given the budget, there has been a lot of discussion around school finance and how the legislature approaches school finance – in particular implementation of the new school finance formula that the legislature approved last year, as well as the Governor's proposal to eliminate multi-year averaging in districts facing declining enrollment.
  - The Joint Budget Committee will review CDE's School Finance budget next week and will make decisions in the coming weeks.
- **Dyslexia Related Legislation**
  - We still haven't seen any dyslexia-related legislation introduced – although based on questions we continue to receive from legislators, we do anticipate there will be something introduced eventually.
  - We just don't have a clear sense of what that will look like – once we have more information, we will share it with you all.
- Mandy Harris shared the following updates:
  - **Cross Departmental Collaboration**
    - A small, cross departmental collaborative team has been formed to evaluate DWG recommended guidance documents and to prepare for publishing with the field. This team has developed a CDE Dyslexia Initiatives Action Plan specific to the work in our offices that intersects with Dyslexia Working Group recommendations.
    - Team individuals from the following offices:
      - Exceptional Student Services Unit (Ellen Hunter, Emily Ottinger, Hunter Smith)
      - Office of Learning Supports (Christina Wainwright)
      - Elementary Literacy and School Readiness Office (Tammy Yetter, Mandy Harris)
    - Grade-Level Indicators of Reading Risk
      - *(Formerly Grade Level Indicators for Dyslexia)*
      - 2021 | 2024 DWG Recommendation 2 and 5, respectively
        - Clarification on how to use and who intended user(s) are
        - Explicit information on proper application in school settings
        - Inclusive language for broader uses within schools
      - “Developed in Partnership with Dyslexia Working Group”
      - Resource will be shared with CDE offices for broad dissemination and to raise awareness and/or provide trainings on

- **Dyslexia Hub Webpage**
  - 2021 | 2024 DWG Recommendation 1 and 6, respectively
  - Webpage Hub Objective:
  - To create a more centralized CDE web information hub for Dyslexia in Colorado for Local Education Providers, educators, and parents.
  - This page will link existing pages and resources along with CDE dyslexia updates and resources
  - CO-MTSS Dyslexia Screening Flowchart
  
- **Trending Concerns from the Field on Dyslexia Screening**
  - How, When, and How Often to use dyslexia screeners from interims?
  - *After* a positive risk indicator for dyslexia - what happens?
    - How to communicate with parents
    - School capacity to serve increased numbers of students identified with characteristics of dyslexia
    - Screener impact on special education systems, Tier II and Tier III
    - Instructional assumptions/misinterpretation
  - Overidentification/misidentification based on standalone singular screener, especially concerning multilingual learners
  
- **We continue to offer ongoing support to the field around dyslexia (ELSR specific updates)**
  - Amplify (ongoing additional measures trainings for our ELAT grantees)
  - By-Request Supports
    - Thought-partnering on systems being built by districts for dyslexia screening
    - Facilitating district-to-district connections for broadening professional learning communities
  - Ongoing, free CDE Professional Development
    - High-quality, Tier I instruction and implementation
      - Data-based Decision Making
      - MTSS and RtI structures and supports
  
- DWG's input on K-2 measures that would be value add (currently limited data on how students are progressing on literacy)
  
- Rhonda led a discussion about the 1241 task for recommendation to include K-2 into a public dashboard. She asked the DWG what K-2 measures they might find valuable to be considered in a dashboard. The measures could include both state and local measures (1241 Task Force Dashboard Recommendations - page 42-45).

- **Group Work**
  - Small groups spent time reviewing the recommendations and contributing ideas about what they think might be valuable to consider on a dashboard (KRS, chronic absenteeism rates, SRD rates, #s of literacy specialist, etc.).
  - Small groups continued work on recommendation revisions.
  - Large group discussion to report out on conversations in the small groups and identify any support needed from the larger group or to be prepared for the May meeting.
    - Charts from Janine Runfola:
      - [CMAS Charts Adams County & Large Districts 2017-2024.pdf](#)
      - [CMAS Poudre School District Comparisons.pdf](#)
- **Public Comment**
  - No members of the public were present
- **Closing**
  - Closing and reminder of upcoming meeting which will be held in person on May 9, 2025 from 9am-3pm.