

## Dyslexia Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2018

10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Tennessee School for the Blind, Nashville, TN

**Attendees:** Vicki Kirk, Theresa Nicholls, Kate Martin, Erin Alexander, Joanna Bivins, Karen Jensen, Allison McAvoy, Anna Thorson, Becky Cox, Briana Patrick, Candice McQueen, Eileen Miller, Elizabeth Norton, Melissa Miller-Benson, Mercedes Chartrand, Morgan Brannon, Susan Porter,

### **10 a.m. Welcome, introductions, review norms and goals – Dr. Vicki Kirk**

- Welcome and thank you for taking the time and effort to attend the meetings and issues between meetings so we can continue to improve student needs
- Norms:
  - Open mind
  - Listen with a purpose
  - Listen respectfully
  - Assume positive intentions
  - Student centered
  - Value time
  - Stay on topic
- Purpose is to advise the department on matters related to Dyslexia
  - Clarify and refine guidance
  - Develop resources to support district implementation
  - Collect data and generate reports on student performance

### **10:15 a.m. Public Comments**

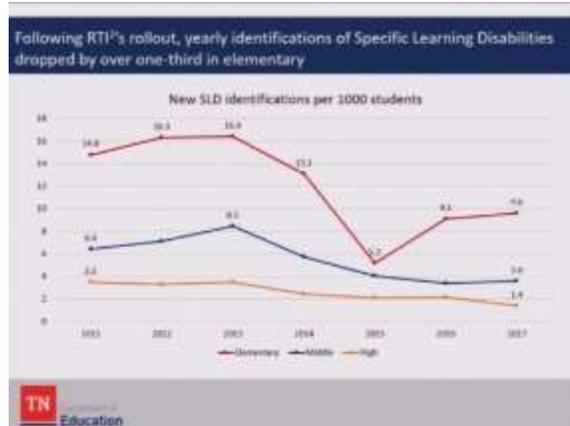
- Following up from a request for public comment on an opportunity for a speech and language pathologist to present. The presenter was unable to make the meeting today due to feeling under the weather.
- How long does each RTI Tier run with seeking an IEP with so many data points within different time periods? –
  - The Dyslexia Advisory Council has been working in trainings and those trainings have been rolled into PLC's happening now. Each tier is based on an individual need basis and meeting criteria. There is no set time frame leading up to the referral and a 504 Form may be submitted at any time. It is not about the process, but about what the data is telling you.
    - If you feel like you're waiting, no wonder you are frustrated. An intervention should not feel like waiting.

**10:30 a.m. Updates from the TDOE**

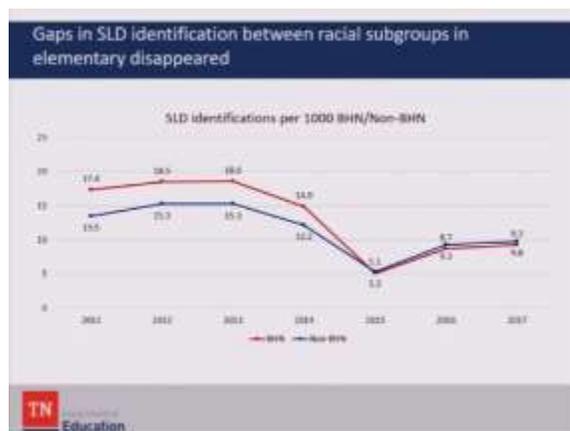
- Training Updates
  - Regional Dyslexia and CORE offices were filled to capacity
  - Each training in the Fall were about 3.5 hours long
  - Extra trainings were added in partnership with CORE offices

Regional Trainings					
	Shelby Co.	West TN	Middle TN	East TN	First TN
Mini-Conference Date and Location	Feb. 26 The Great Hall & Conference Center 1900 South Germantown Rd. Germantown, TN 38138	Mar. 6 Jackson Civic Center 4013 Highland Ave. Jackson, TN 38301	Mar. 9 Murkin Professional Development Center 2600 Tynnis Ave. Nashville, TN 37212	Mar. 21 The Venue at Lenoir City 7690 Creekswood Park Blvd. Lenoir City, TN 37752	Mar. 12 Northwest State College 300 West Market St. Kingsport, TN 37660
Implementing the Alternate Academic Options (AAO) Districtwide Dyslexia Training	Feb. 27 The Great Hall & Conference Center 1900 South Germantown Rd. Germantown, TN 38138	Mar. 7 Jackson Civic Center 4013 Highland Ave. Jackson, TN 38301	Mar. 8 180	Mar. 28 The Venue at Lenoir City 7690 Creekswood Park Blvd. Lenoir City, TN 37752	Mar. 13 Northwest State College 300 West Market St. Kingsport, TN 37660

- Not just about meeting bill requirements. What reading is? What the parts of reading are? What parts are affected by students with characteristics? Assessments are different with different lanes that may give different outcomes.
- Session at PIE (Partners in Education Conference) and had a nice turn out.
- Resource Updates (FAQ)
  - Published in January and sent out, there is also a link available online
  - [https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/special-education/dys/Say\\_Dyslexia\\_FAQ.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/special-education/dys/Say_Dyslexia_FAQ.pdf)
  - After trainings, attendees are encourages to check out the FAQs doc
  - Trying to make the website more user friendly and is regularly updated
  - Social Media pushes are important for Dyslexia
- RTI Updates
  - Four years of learnings from RTI in Tennessee
    - 3 years in elementary schools
    - 2 years in middle schools
    - 1 year in high schools
  - At a great place to reflect on impact: Pre and post RTI



- 75% learning disabilities are found eligible in elementary
- Trends across the nation shows a decrease in male disabilities and has become closer to females.



- Disproportionality between racial sub-groups, this data takes out SDL Bias.
- Reporting purposes to federal will report out on the primary disability, which is the one that is the most descriptive of what is needed in the classroom

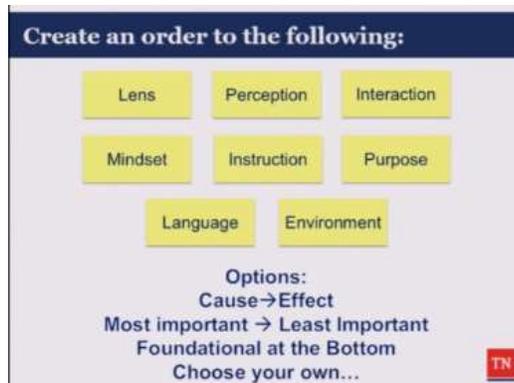
We are tracking indicators of academic outcomes as they become available

- Some districts report **decreases** in students performing below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile on universal screener data
- Some districts also report a **decrease** in the percentage of students requiring Tier II and III interventions
- However, we also see that some students are staying in tiered interventions for **lengthy periods of time** and some who exit interventions do not maintain their skills later, requiring **further intervention**

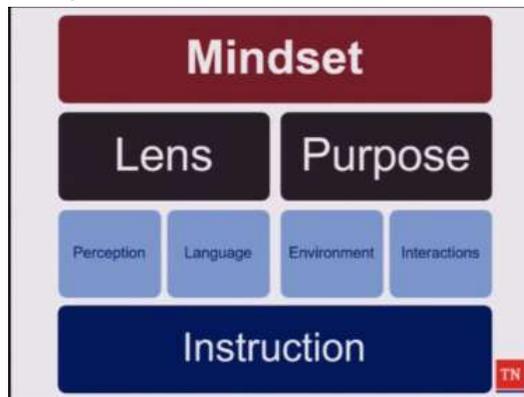
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**11:30 a.m. Break for Lunch****12 p.m. Updates from the TDOE Continued**

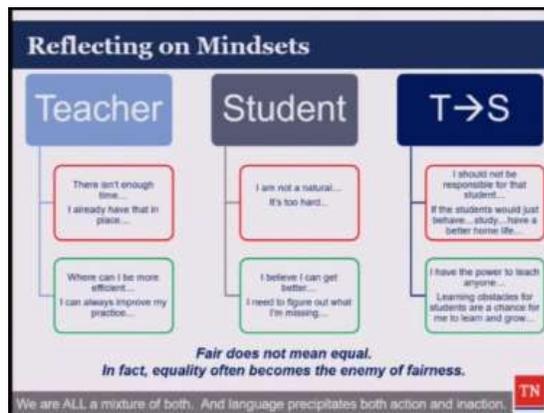
- Government Operations
  - IDEA addresses multiple disabilities, in TN there are different connotations. We report out on Primary disability, have the primary be the one that is the most descriptive of what the child needs in the classroom.
  - Carry over from Sunset Hearing from last year
  - This year notified on short notice, senate and house committee meeting, not discussion at either meeting, a motion heard last summer – made a request for numerical data, our requirements is to develop a report to include numerical data, amend bill to include that reporting requirement
  - Nothing overly concerning, but bill was amended
  - Proposed that reporting would take place by winter of next year, testing data not available by July 1<sup>st</sup>, not enough time to generate proper report.
- TLiT
  - Teaching Literacy in TN document
  - Pointed out the dyslexia info incorrect – pulled it back down and updated to address issues – is now available for viewing
  - Comment: Ms. O'Donahue – Metro Public School Teacher for 4 years, dyslexic herself, dyslexic therapist and advocate, “What is the website and what is TLiT about?”
    - <https://www.tn.gov/readtobeready/just-for-educators/summer-learning-series.html>
    - TLiT is a good ELA Tier 1 guide established by TDOE CORE instruction with ELA and reading aspects
- ACCESS – All Children Challenged and Equipped for School Success – Kate Martin
  - ACCESS is a cross departmental (20 persons of every academic form within TDOE) training
  - It looks at the What, Why and How of differentiation,
  - How do all TN students make sure all students have access to high quality general education possible
  - Activity – set of cards, put the cards in order that you can justify,



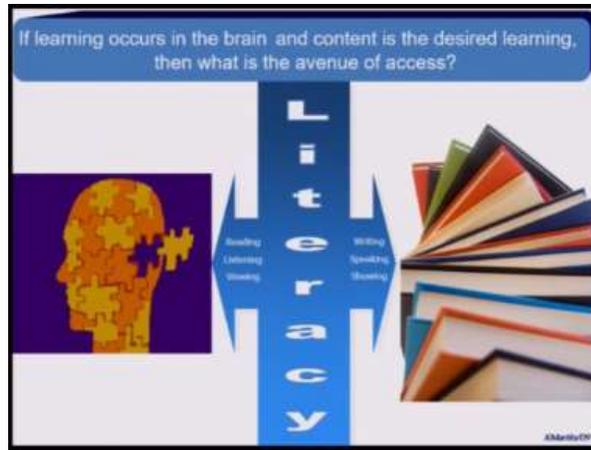
- This is one of the earlier activities within the 6 hours training. Most of the day is set up like this in order to make the student think.
- No one idea is correct, you just need to be able to justify the train of thought.



- How do we use the time we have better?



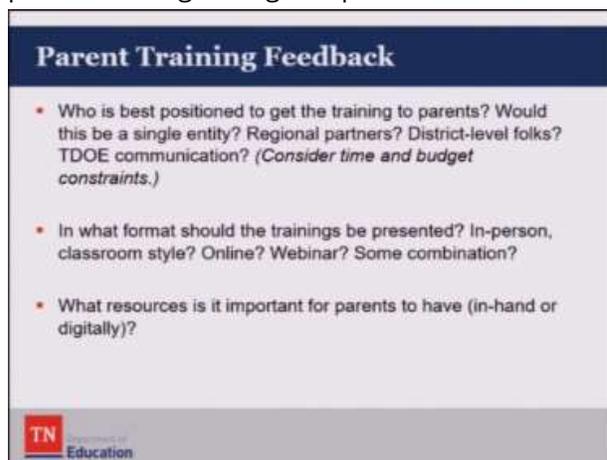
- How powerful teachers are is the main take away from ACCESS Training

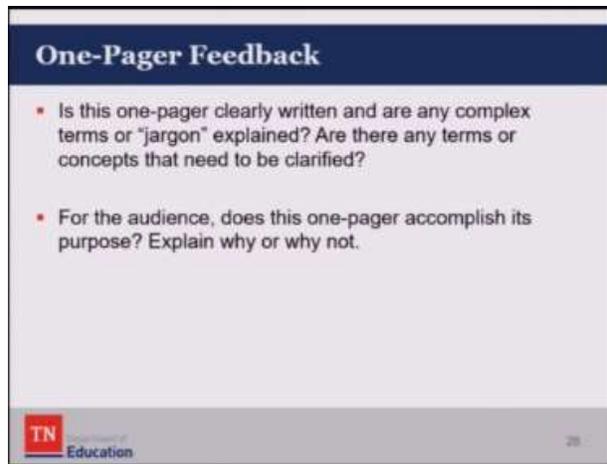


- SPDG – Parent Training and Communication Feedback
  - Opened up application process to add districts
  - Districts given materials from regional trainings and work with staff on everything included in the training.
  - Going into the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort – seeing a lot of positive changes and excited to learn from the challenges and to evaluate changes, districts may submit application at PIE conference and closes on March 8, 2018
  - Reminds about not only intervention but giving access to high quality tier one instruction before giving interventions
  - SMILA Training – sensory training that began in Smyrna

**1 p.m. Parent Training and Communications Feedback**

- Took all feedback and created an outline, worked without parent partner STEP, what is the most critical for a 30 minute session for parents, narrow down outline to create an informational packet to districts, give about 5 highlights for parent training during an open house





- Will be on STEP Website - <http://www.tnstep.org/>
  - Parent hand out – where do I go for more information – who do I reach out to? Theresa is the contact for dyslexia questions. We encourage parents to speak with the school district before contacting the state. Questions may be field to different people. “Ask to speak to your reading interventionists” could be an answer compared to a question, struggle is that every district is different – ask for the district to fill out who the point of contact for reading information

**2 p.m. Time**

As revisions are made with STEP, we will follow up and keep everyone posted. Thank you all for coming and have safe travels back home.