

Dyslexia Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2018
10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Tennessee School for the Blind, Nashville, TN

Attendees: Theresa Nicholls, Joanna Bivins, Karen Jensen, Dr. Elizabeth Alves, Becky Cox, Elizabeth Norton, Erin Alexander, Susan Porter, Allison McAvoy, Anna Thorson, Erin Lavery, Susan Usery

10 a.m. Welcome, introductions, review norms and goals – Dr. Elizabeth Alves

- 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 define guidance
 - Advise TDOE on matters regarding Dyslexia

10:15 a.m. TDOE Updates – Theresa Nicholls

- In Person Trainings, 118 Districts Represented and 6 conference representations
 - Survey results showed gained of knowledge
 - Districts have submitted what they use for dyslexia interventions
 - A draft of the report will be available for review at the next council meeting
 - Includes RTI and Special Education
- Karen Jensen – RTI Updates
 - A budget passed, districts are receiving funding for RTI positions and this fund is recurring
 - These positions will guide practices so districts are consistent and understanding of student instruction

10:30 a.m. Feedback Concerns – Theresa Nicholls

- Concerns were grouped into three main concerns:

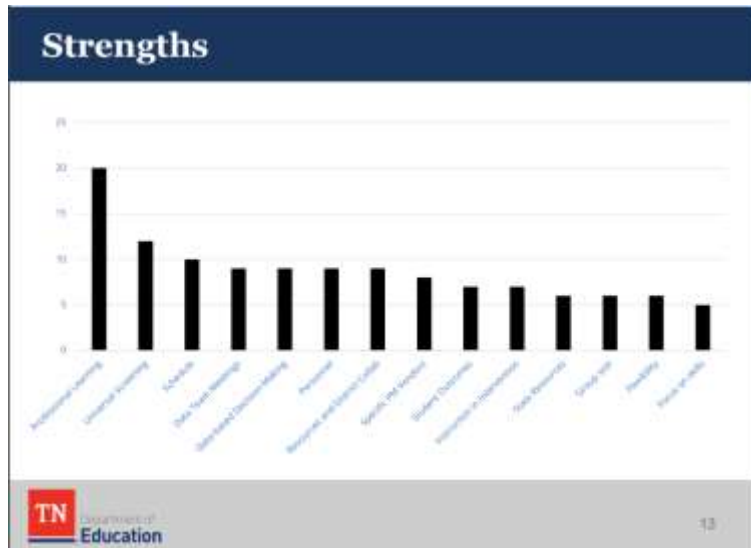
- Implementation of legislations at a department level with communication during trainings
 - Having a guide is nice but can be overwhelming
 - FAQ pages are continuing to be developed
 - Clarify routes for RTI and dyslexia parents for reporting or questions
 - Referencing between literacy documents and how they are used for dyslexia
- Referral to special education based on those RTI procedures and processes
- RTI – How do we move forward and improve our training processes?
 - Communication – Guide is a positive, the FAQ pages (in development), clarifying routes for parents for RTI and Special Education
 - Cross referencing between literacy documents – how they are used for dyslexia
- Simplifying the websites to make it easier to find dyslexia information,
 - How do parents feel helped, or make RTI softer – need for a contact (hotline) for parents with issues with districts
- Guidance and policy established gets translated down to the district and instruction levels is important and a goal of the Department of Education

12 p.m.

RTI² Manual Refinement Feedback – Karen Jensen

- Working to refine the RTI² Framework Manual Feedback
 - Refining the feedback about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for growth, threats to implementation
 - Seeing how we support students with characteristics of dyslexia through the Tier II or III implementation
- Norms for Implementation
 - Speak from your experience and in facts as much as possible
 - Listen and value the ideas and feedback of others
 - Contribute, but monitor air time
 - Seek to understand, not just to be understood
 - Be solutions oriented
- Break – Out Activity
 - Listing information to support refining manual feedback
 - What should stay the same or change
- RTI² Listening Tour
 - 7 Town Halls
 - High School Focus Groups
 - 8 high schools across the State of Tennessee Dept. of Education
 - 7 student focus groups
 - 8 staff focus groups
 - Feedback
 - Examining Current Guidelines (Top 3 Areas)

- Fidelity
- Assessment
- More options for screeners
- Group Size



- Students would like
 - To know what they are progressing towards
 - More teacher – directed instruction
 - More collaborative work with peers
 - More choice and making it relevant to real life

2 p.m. Close of meeting. Thank you for attending and get home safely.