



SB1544 schools; dyslexia; literacy; appropriations (Borrelli)

This bill requires the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to issue a RFP for an Early Literacy Assessment Tool and modifies implementation timelines for dyslexia screening.

- Delays, from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021 the requirement for ADE to develop a dyslexia screening plan
- Delays, from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021 the requirement for each school district and charter school to ensure at least one K-3 teacher receives dyslexia training at each school
- Includes nonsense word fluency, rather than nonsense word repetition, in the prescribed screening indicators for dyslexia
- Requires ADE to issue a RFP by October 1, 2020 to purchase an assessment tool to allow teachers to obtain real-time assessments of the reading skill levels of K-3 students and to generate intervention plans and materials based on those results
- Outline specific requirements for the RFP to require of the screening software
- Requires ADE to select a provider and enter into a contract by March 1, 2021
- Appropriates \$2M and three FTE positions from the general fund in FY21 to ADE for dyslexia specialists and screening
- Appropriates \$2M from the general fund in FY21 for ADE to distribute to district and charter schools for providing support for students with language based struggles, improving screening materials, and professional development