

January 2017

Dyslexia - RFI Shelly Benford

All elementary teachers have received training in the five components of reading, which include Phonics and Phonological Awareness, the components directly connected to dyslexia. Principals can request continued building based professional learning sessions on phonics and phonological awareness as well as the other components of reading. We also offer after school short courses on these components and a course called, *What is Dyslexia? Instructional Practices in the Classroom*. All teachers are invited to sign up for these courses. Providing these learning opportunities has supported our teachers to provide explicit instruction for all students within their universal classroom and targeted instruction for students with dyslexic behaviors.

Along with providing professional learning opportunities for all elementary teachers, we:

- Have incorporated the Barton Reading and Spelling program into our before and after school tutoring system and are currently training special education teachers to provide intensive instruction using the Barton System.
- Have developed an intervention task force with parents and teachers and are designing a pathway for providing targeted and / or intensive instruction through our district MTSS process. The task force is also examining possible assessments to identify students with mild to moderate to severe dyslexic behaviors.
- BVSD literacy specialists and staff members from some of our elementary schools attended the Reading in the Rockies Conference (Colorado chapter of the International Dyslexia Association) in Vail (October 2016) in order to gain knowledge and instructional practices to support students with dyslexia.

We will continue to listen to and be responsive to the needs of our students and community in providing high leverage instructional strategies to accelerate the learning of all BVSD students including students with dyslexia.

Here are the responses from past requests:

BOE RFI from September 2015
BOE RFI from November 2015

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