

MEMO

To: Dr. Bruce Messenger, Superintendent
From: Angel Stobaugh, Director of Literacy
Date: June 8, 2016

To continue to ensure we provide appropriate intervention for our diverse population of students, during the 2015-16 school year, the BVSD Literacy Department furthered its work to support students displaying dyslexic behaviors. Below is a brief accounting of investigations or work completed.

- Invited and paid for the registration for specialists, teachers and parents to attend the “Dyslexia Debate” conference at the University of Denver on November 6, 2015.
- The instructional materials adoption committee, as part of the English Language Arts adoption process, investigated materials that included all five components of reading, including those areas consistent with dyslexia (phonics and phonological awareness).
- Consulted multiple times with the president of the Rocky Mountain International Dyslexia Association (IDA).
- Organized and conducted a parent presentation on dyslexia at Fireside Elementary, February 2016.
- BVSD staff members attended the International Dyslexia Association conference in Denver (4/09/16) in order to gain more approaches to support students with dyslexia.
- Researched the International Literacy Association (ILA) stance on dyslexia.(Note: The ILA discourages the labeling of dyslexia.)
- Created an intervention task force composed of parents, teachers, community members, interventionists, and literacy specialists.
 - Since January, the task force has met to develop common foundational understandings. Next school year, this group will investigate possible screeners for identification of students displaying mild, moderate, or severe dyslexic behaviors
- Is developing a dyslexia professional learning course to be implemented Fall 2016.
- Reviewed BVSD’s current Barton pilot (reading intervention approach that supports students with dyslexic behaviors) data and initiated Barton professional learning for a first cohort of special education teachers, while continuing to provide professional learning for teachers in the pilot.
 - Currently, investigating the cost for expansion of the Barton program.
- Facilitated a meeting between Special Education Directors and parents of students with dyslexia, March 2016.
- Investigated potential dyslexia screening options to support early identification of students with key behaviors; we will continue this investigation for possible purchase during 2016/17-2017/18.
- Continue to offer short courses on the topic of phonics and phonological awareness to increase the knowledge and expertise of teachers.