

Dyslexia Core Assessments Request for Applications (RFA)

The Louisiana Department of Education

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Section 1 - Overview and Objectives

Being able to read is a predictor of educational and lifelong success. Early identification of dyslexia is crucial because it allows for timely intervention, which can significantly improve a child's reading abilities, prevent academic frustration, boost self-esteem, and minimize the negative impact of learning difficulties by providing targeted support before significant learning gaps develop.

[R.S. 17:392.11, as amended by Act 517](#) of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session, asserts that if a student is at risk for dyslexia according to a kindergarten dyslexia screening, the parent or legal guardian may request a core assessment for dyslexia. The core assessment shall not be based on a single test score or specific number of characteristics and shall include all of the following:

- Tests of language, particularly phonemic assessment, real words and pseudowords, oral reading fluency, and intellectual ability
- An academic performance review
- An interview with the student's parent or legal guardian

The parent may select either the local education agency (LEA) or a vendor or professional approved by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to administer the core assessment. Designated legislative funding for the dyslexia core assessment was provided through the Dyslexia Fund in [R.S. 17:392.14 established by Act 525](#) of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session.

The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to identify vendors that will provide dyslexia core assessments. The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) adopted rules outlined in [Bulletin 1903 - Louisiana Handbook for Students with Dyslexia](#). All dyslexia core assessments must be provided by vendors and professionals who meet qualifications set forth by the assessment publisher and must be trained in administering the assessment. These may include a licensed psychologist, certified school psychologist, licensed certified speech-language pathologist, certified educational diagnostician, clinical psychologists, neuropsychologists, and/or certified academic language therapists. Core assessment publishers determine professionals trained to interpret the assessments.

Section 2 - RFA Application/Selection Process

The table below outlines the RFA process for the dyslexia core assessment requirement as part of [R.S. 17:392.11](#). The RFA will remain open.

Dyslexia Core Assessment Vendor Selection Process	
Step 1	Dyslexia core assessment vendor application submitted via Jot Form .
Step 2	The LDOE schedules and convenes a review panel to review applications. Within 3 weeks, applicants will receive feedback. Rejected applications will have the opportunity to resubmit applications one time per school year.
Step 3	Approved vendors will be added to the Louisiana Dyslexia Core Assessment Vendor Guide.

Section 3 - Required Application Components

Vendor applicants submit an application via [Jot Form](#). No cover letters, executive summaries, or organizational marketing materials will be accepted.

Dyslexia Core Assessment Vendor Selection Process Application Template	
Application Section	Requirements
1. Vendor Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact information • Company or organization overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Structure ○ Mission statement ○ Prior work ○ Third-party evaluations
2. Vendor Qualifications	<p>All dyslexia core assessments must be provided by vendors and professionals who meet qualifications set forth by the assessment publisher and must be trained in administering the assessment. These may include a licensed psychologist, certified school psychologist, licensed certified speech-language pathologist, certified educational diagnostician, clinical psychologists, neuropsychologists, and/or certified academic language therapist. Core assessment publishers determine professionals trained to interpret the assessments.</p>
3. Vendor Goals and Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in dyslexia core assessment • Approach to dyslexia core assessment • Summary of assessments used • Administrative structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operations ○ Supervision ○ Reporting • Quality measurement of services
4. Program Description and Scope of Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to assess English Learners • Scope of services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Availability ○ Number of assessors available ○ Daily/weekly schedules
5. Reporting	<p>Reporting must be provided to parents following the dyslexia core assessment that includes results from the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests of language, particularly phonemic assessment, real words and pseudowords, oral reading fluency, and intellectual ability; • An academic performance review; • Review of medical information provided by parent, if applicable;

Dyslexia Core Assessment Vendor Selection Process Application Template

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations for parent next steps (tips for parents to support literacy at home) and how to provide the core assessment results to their School Building Level Committee (SBLC); and, An interview with the student's parent or legal guardian. <p>Upload a copy of a sample family report of assessment results.</p>
6. Engagement and Support	<p>Plan that includes how the vendor will engage and collaborate with parents about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment process; Timelines and responsiveness; Assessment cost, including cost above and beyond; and Results of the core assessment.
7. Proposed Pricing	Overall price for dyslexia core assessment per student. Reimbursement will be up to \$500 per Bulletin 1930 .
8. References	1-3 letters of support from current or previous partners and/or families supported.
9. Signature	Required for consideration.

Section 4 - Application Evaluation Criteria

The LDOE provides rigorous evaluation criteria for RFA applications. Applications are evaluated based on:

1. Ability of vendor to help Louisiana achieve key education goals, including early and accurate identification of challenges;
2. Commitment of the vendor to serve parents and students;
3. Quality of vendors and assessment practices;
4. Commitment of the vendor to engage parents; and,
5. Cost effectiveness.

All determinations of whether or not an application meets these evaluation criteria will be indicated on a “Pass/Fail” basis. The LDOE will interpret these evaluation criteria as indicated in the table below. Each evaluation criterion must receive a “pass” to achieve an overall “pass.”

Evaluation Criteria	How the Evaluation Criteria will be Assessed: Evaluation Sub-Components
Section 1. Vendor Summary	<p>1a) Vendor information includes all requested information.</p> <p>1b) Vendor includes the structure and information about staff and professionals who will conduct assessments.</p>

Evaluation Criteria	How the Evaluation Criteria will be Assessed: Evaluation Sub-Components
Section 2. Vendor Qualifications	2a) Vendor meets qualifications outlined in Bulletin 1903 . 2b) Vendor has relevant experience and a successful work history.
Section 3. Vendor Goals and Background	3a) Vendor lists assessments used. 3b) Assessments meet the requirements of R.S. 17:392.11 and include all areas included as a core assessment.
Section 4. Program Description and Scope of Services	Vendor has a clear plan to support English Learners.
Section 5. Reporting	Meets all reporting requirements, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests of language, particularly phonemic assessment, real words and pseudowords, oral reading fluency, and intellectual ability; • An academic performance review; • Review of medical information provided by parent, if applicable; • Recommendations for parent next steps (tips for parents to support literacy at home) and how to provide the core assessment results to their school SBLC; and, • An interview with the student's parent or legal guardian.
Section 6: Engagement and Support	Family engagement includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment process; • Timelines and responsiveness; • Assessment cost, including cost above and beyond; and • Results of the core assessment.
Section 7: Proposed Pricing	Overall price for dyslexia core assessment per student does not exceed \$500, per Bulletin 1930 .
Section 8: References	One-page references include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of reference from a parent, individual or previous partner impacted by the vendor, and • Evidence of success and results.
Section 9: Signature	Signature and date certifies the vendor's application responses.