

Dyslexia Therapy/Therapist

Dyslexia Therapy means an appropriate specialized dyslexia instructional program that is delivered by a Mississippi Department of Education Licensed dyslexia therapist which is scientific, research-based, Orton-Gillingham based, and is offered in a small group. (MS Code Sec. 37-173-1)

Dyslexia Therapist means a professional who has completed training in a department approved Orton-Gillingham based dyslexia therapy training program attaining an AA license in dyslexia therapy or a professional participating in a state approved dyslexia therapy training program to attain a AA license in dyslexia therapy. (MS Code Sec. 37-173-1)

Schools may request the MSDTA Dyslexia Screener for kindergarten and first grade:
www.info@msdta.org

Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Graduate Programs

The MSDTA endorses state approved dyslexia therapy graduate programs that meet the highest standards of dyslexia therapy instruction and training. Instruction must have originated from Orton-Gillingham and be designed specifically for students whose primary disability is dyslexia.

Training must be in compliance with MS Code Sec. 37-173-1 and meet the standards set by the National Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) for training at the therapy level and/or the International Dyslexia Associations (IDA) *Knowledge and Best Practices of Teachers of Reading*.

Currently, there are three state approved programs that lead to MDE Licensure #203.

William Carey University
Mississippi College
University of Southern MS

Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Association



Est. 2012

The mission of the Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Association is to support Dyslexia Therapists and advocate for individuals with dyslexia by promoting the highest standards for dyslexia therapy training, licensure, practice and research.

www.msdta.org

Definition of Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. (International Dyslexia Association, 2012)

Dyslexia Resources

Overcoming Dyslexia, Sally Shaywitz, M.D.

MSDTA Dyslexia Screener, William Carey University

www.interdys.org (International Dyslexia Assn.)

www.altaread.org (Academic Language Therapist Assn.)

www.dyslexia.yale.edu (Yale Medical University)

www.msdtta.org (Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Assn.)

"For the dyslexic child, identified early, with supportive parents and with a proper remedial program of sufficient length, the prognosis is very good" Reid Lyon, (2000) National Institute of Children's Health Human Services

Dyslexia Law

MS Code Sec. 37-173-1

- **Mandates:** public school screening of students in the spring of kindergarten and fall of 1st grade
 - **Requires:** parents must be informed of the screening results
 - **Defines:** codifies dyslexia therapy, dyslexia therapist, diagnostician, and the state's obligation to students with dyslexia
 - **School Choice:** students in grades 1-12 who are diagnosed with dyslexia may receive a Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship to attend a different public school or a state accredited special purpose school with licensed dyslexia therapist(s) on staff.
 - **MAEP:** The Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship funds that follow the student to a special purpose school or public school that employ MDE licensed therapists #203.
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MSDTA Supports:

- Legislative efforts that benefit children with dyslexia through provisions of dyslexia therapy in public, non-public, and private centers.
- MS Universities that offer state approved dyslexia therapy training programs.
- Requirement for therapists to hold MDE Licensure #203 Dyslexia Therapy for Dyslexia Scholarships to follow students with dyslexia to a **non-public special purpose school. (MS Code Sec.37-173-1)**
- Informing parents of intervention options by maintaining a roster on the MSDTA website that lists names and emails of certified dyslexia therapists. www.msdtta.org
- Sponsorship of and participation in Conferences that offer educational opportunities about dyslexia and associated disorders.
- Creation of a state approved Dyslexia Screener for K and 1st grade at a minimal fee to schools.
- Informing the public of the dyslexia law and how it affects children and families.