

What It Does

- Creates a stakeholder advisory group to ensure that all schools, educators & families have access to evidence based, comprehensive literacy instruction.
- Provides guidance on best practices to identify & remediate students struggling readers before they develop a reading disability. The handbook would also address best practices for schools so they can close the gap for students with reading disabilities like dyslexia.
- Allows the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to expand an existing position with the Department to serve as a dyslexia point of contact and advisor to local school districts.



Why a Reading & Dyslexia Handbook?

- The Maryland [Dyslexia Task Force](#) recommended a Handbook be created to offer local school systems information on how to address reading and dyslexia (p. 52-53).
- The Handbook bill was originally included in the 2019 [Ready to Read Act, Ch. 512](#). It is a **cost-effective** way to **address prevention & opportunity gaps** in reading.
- The Handbook will be an **accessible resource** for local school systems and parents as they attempt to close opportunity gaps and implement a prevention model for reading that includes screening and interventions over the summer and in the Fall.
- **Support for HB237** is widespread. The bill passed the House unanimously in 2020 and in 2021; supporters include the NAACP MD, American Academy of Pediatrics, MD; Maryland School Psychologists; the Education Advocacy Coalition; The Maryland Education Coalition; the Baltimore County Executive; Howard County Public School Board; Notre Dame University of Maryland; Baltimore Jewish Council and hundreds of parents and teachers. [Click here for the full list of supporting organizations.](#)
- 23 states have handbooks or guidebooks to develop, sustain and promote best practices for literacy development and dyslexia remediation & to improve student outcomes in reading and writing.
- The Handbook will provide school districts and parents a roadmap to improve early literacy instruction and create a collaborative path for students at risk for dyslexia in both general and special education settings.

Our Asks

- Please vote yes to move this bill out of the Senate Education Committee (EHE)
- Please vote yes on the Senate floor on HB 237 or SB 126

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