

## General Information about Dyslexia

### **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 the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. *International Dyslexia Association Adopted by the Board of Directors: November 12, 2002*

#### Characteristics of Dyslexia:

- Difficulty reading single words in isolation
- Difficulty accurately decoding nonsense or unfamiliar words
- Slow, inaccurate or labored oral reading (lack of reading fluency)
- Difficulty learning to spell

#### Characteristics are the Result of:

- Difficulty with the development of phonological awareness, including segmenting, blending and manipulating sounds in words
- Difficulty learning the names of letters and their associated sounds
- Difficulty with phonological memory (holding information about sounds and words in memory)
- Difficulty with rapid naming of familiar objects, colors or letters of the alphabet

#### Characteristics Lead to:

- Variable degrees of difficulty with word recognition in isolation or in context
- Variable difficulty with aspects of reading comprehension
- Variable difficulty with aspects of written composition
- A limited amount of time spent in reading activities

## Dyslexia Therapy in Sherman ISD

**Identification of Dyslexia** Students in Sherman ISD are recommended for a formal dyslexia screening by either an RtI (Response to Intervention Team) or an ARDC (Annual Review and Dismissal Committee). Students are given both informal and formal assessments which are instrumental in profiling the identifying characteristics of dyslexia. Parents may also request testing.



***Take Flight and Language!*** Sherman ISD has adopted the *Take Flight* curriculum as its dyslexia program for grades 2-4, *MTA* for grades 5-6 and support services for grades 7-12. The dyslexia curriculum is a comprehensive, integrated language arts program addressing reading and spelling. The curriculum teaches the structure and science of the English language.

All classes are taught and directed by a certified teacher who has been specially trained in multisensory teaching methods and specifically in the dyslexia curriculum. The Language Science Program is offered on all Sherman ISD campuses for students in second through twelfth grades.

#### ***Esperanza:***

Sherman ISD also offers a bilingual dyslexia program on campuses that offer bilingual instruction. Spanish speakers who meet the requirements as a bilingual student with an educational need for dyslexia services receive dyslexia instruction in the Spanish dyslexia curriculum called *Esperanza*.

State Dyslexia Handbook <http://www.region10.org/interactive-dyslexia-handbook/>

SISD Dyslexia Handbook <http://www.shermanisd.net/> (Click on Departments, Special Programs, Dyslexia)

