



Memo

Subject: Dyslexia Screening

Date: 11/2/2022

From: Heather Somers

Board of Trustees:

Recently, the Idaho legislature passed a law that requires all students in grades K-5 to be screened for dyslexia. The Idaho State Department of Education shared in their monthly assessment meetings that local education associations (districts) would be responsible for this screening and that it would be an unfunded mandate. They published a list of acceptable screeners, so we chose the free option from the list: Acadience RAN (Rapid Auto Naming) and we have completed this requirement.

Rapid Auto Naming is a test of a student's ability to quickly and accurately identify a series of objects, letters, and numbers. Each series consists of five objects, five letters, or five numbers. It is important to keep in mind that this is simply a screener. There are no diagnostic elements to it. The purpose is to quickly identify any student who may present with an extraordinary pattern while screening. If a student is identified, a school team will determine what type of tier two screening and intervention might be needed. One option for our school teams is to wait and screen again in January. This is generally for our young students who may have a lack of exposure to text, so may not track well or cooperate with the screener. We will not be tracking data for these at the district level. Schools will retain their results for reporting to the state in a manner yet to be determined.

These assessments were administered by a wonderful cadre of retired teachers who went school-to-school and screened each student in person. They had such a great time helping and connecting with one another.