



**Newsletter — September 2025 Issue**

## **Mandatory School Dyslexia Screenings: What Parents Should Know**

A [new Colorado law](#) will require all K-3 students to be screened (beginning 2027-2028) for signs of dyslexia so that struggling readers can be identified early and supported effectively.

It's great to see more awareness about dyslexia and the need for early help. At the same time, there's a lot for parents to learn and understand when it comes to helping a child who might have dyslexia.

### **What is Dyslexia?**

Dyslexia is a neurodevelopmental difference that affects how the brain works with reading, writing, and spelling. It is a *complex diagnosis that can look very different from one person to the next*, involving much more than just having trouble with words on a page.

Importantly, dyslexia is more than a disorder — many individuals with dyslexia show remarkable creativity, problem-

solving abilities, and big-picture thinking skills that can become real advantages when recognized and supported.

## Dyslexia Screeners: Pros & Cons

There are upsides and downsides to using dyslexia screeners, and it's important for parents and teachers to consider both.

### Pros

- ✓ Screeners can be given quickly to an entire class, saving time for teachers and staff.
- ✓ They allow schools to catch possible reading challenges early, often before students start falling behind.
- ✓ Fast results mean parents and teachers can act sooner to give kids the right help.
- ✓ Early identification helps prevent small reading struggles from turning into bigger learning gaps later on.

### Cons

- ⚠ Screeners are not comprehensive and may not be fully accurate — missing some kids who need help, or flagging others who don't. This can lead to time and energy spent on the wrong solutions, or a false belief that the child is doing fine when early help is needed.
- ⚠ Overlook gifted or advanced learners (who may read at grade-level and also have dyslexia).
- ⚠ Don't "diagnose" dyslexia—they only help spot possible signs that a child might be struggling with reading.

- ⚠️ Don't assess [other causes of reading difficulty](#), such as language delays (which frequently co-occur with dyslexia), [ADHD](#) & [executive functioning](#), visual and [auditory processing](#), developmental disabilities, and cognitive delays.
- ⚠️ May lead to a narrow focus on raising reading scores rather than helping the child build confidence and love for reading.
- ⚠️ May lead to one-size-fits-all interventions that miss each child's unique learning needs and strengths.
- ⚠️ If schools don't handle the social side of possible dyslexia carefully, screeners can unintentionally add to feelings of stigma or embarrassment for students.

## What to Do if Your Child Fails a Dyslexia Screener

If your child doesn't pass a dyslexia screener, there are some helpful next steps you can take to better understand their needs and support their reading journey.

- 🖐️ Formally petition the school for an eligibility meeting to see if your child qualifies for extra support through an IEP or 504 plan. (Be sure to [educate yourself](#) about your rights as a parent within this process).
- 🖐️ Find an education advocate who can help make sure your child's needs are met and that the school is following education laws.
- 🖐️ Consult with a learning or neurodevelopmental psychologist to see what [clinical tests](#) or services might

support your child. (Note: Many schools are unable to recommend this).

- 🙌 Learn about the unique strengths, learning styles, and challenges that come with dyslexia so you can better support your child.
- 🙌 Make sure your child's learning plan balances the right interventions with plenty of opportunities to build on their strengths and enjoy learning.
- 🙌 Remember: Dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of—many people see it as a superpower that comes with unique strengths and talents!

**If your child fails a vision or hearing test,  
consult an eye or ear doctor.**

**Similarly, if your child fails a dyslexia screener — consult a  
learning and child neurodevelopment specialist.**

Dyslexia is complex, and while screeners have both pros and cons, they're only one piece of the puzzle. It's just as important to celebrate the many strengths and talents that come with dyslexia as it is to find the right support when needed.

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## **Dyslexia Resources**

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**“The True Gifts of a Dyslexic Mind”**



WATCH HERE

## Check out “SuperPower Thinking: A Teen’s Journey Through the Hidden Gifts of ADHD & Dyslexia”



LISTEN HERE

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If you’d like to bring a dyslexia simulation or training to your school or community, please reach out to our office—we’d love to help make it happen!

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“How you learn has nothing to do  
with how brilliant you are.”

— Henry Winkler

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Happy September!



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