

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
INFORMATIONAL REPORT
PRESENTATION ON

Disability Awareness – Focus on Dyslexia

October 21, 2024

Background:

According to the International Dyslexia Association, dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition, poor spelling, and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities. Students with dyslexia are often identified for Special Education when there is a need for specially designed instruction to address deficits resulting from an identified pattern of strengths and weaknesses associated with the specific learning disability. Research indicates that students with dyslexia often require a structured literacy approach that includes intensive, multi-sensory, systematic, and explicit instruction with embedded repetition and practice to bring skills to automaticity.

Discussion:

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month. This presentation provides an overview of the screening, intervening, and progress monitoring that takes place to identify students in grades K-2 who are at risk for reading difficulties. Identification of a specific learning disability by the IEP team is also addressed followed by a review of the structured literacy programs utilized throughout HCPS to address the needs of students identified with dyslexia. Other disabilities that are recognized during the month of October will also be highlighted.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the Board of Education accept this informational report aimed at spreading awareness of how the needs of students with dyslexia are addressed in Harford County Public Schools.