

# **Brick Township Board of Education District Policy**

**Students**

**Series 5000**

**Needs Assessment of Individual Pupils**

**Policy 5120 [M]**

Date Adopted: December 12, 2007

Date Revised: April 2003; October 27, 2009; October 23, 2014

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Date Reviewed: 1<sup>st</sup> Read March 9, 2017;

Each student shall be assessed upon entrance into the district's schools and beginning in grade three shall be assessed annually thereafter, to identify students not meeting district proficiency levels.

The superintendent shall develop procedures to implement a program of individual student needs assessment that shall include but not be limited to:

- A. Identifying district needs as the basis for development of mandated goals, development of staff inservice programs, selecting and approving instructional materials, staffing;
- B. Identifying and determining the needs of:
  - 1. Gifted and talented students;
  - 2. Disruptive students;
  - 3. Disaffected students;
  - 4. Potential dropouts;
  - 5. Students who exhibit one or more potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disability;
  - 6. Students who require basic skills improvement programs;
  - 7. Students with limited English proficiency;
  - 8. Students who may require formal referral to the child study team for classification.

Policies addressing these specific groups and appropriate educational programs for them are listed in the cross references to this policy.

- C. Disseminating results of such assessments to parents/guardians and to appropriate staff and state and federal agencies as required without invading the privacy of the individual student;

The superintendent/designee shall review all individual assessment procedures annually to ensure that they serve the purposes for which they are intended. At all times, these procedures shall be in full conformity with federal and state law.

## Dyslexia Assessment

“Dyslexia” means a specific learning disability that is neurobiological 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

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provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

The board shall select and implement age-appropriate screening instruments for the early diagnosis of dyslexia and other reading disabilities

The board shall ensure that each student enrolled in the school district who has exhibited one or more potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities is screened for dyslexia and other reading disabilities using a screening instrument selected by the board. The screening shall be conducted no later than the student's completion of the first semester of the second grade.

Students enrolling in the district or transferring into the district in kindergarten or grades one through six who exhibit potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities and who have not been previously assessed, shall be assessed using the board selected age-appropriate screening instruments. Students shall be assessed at the same time as other students enrolled in the student's grade if feasible. If other students enrolled in the student's grade have previously been screened, the assessment shall be conducted within 90 calendar days of the date the student is enrolled in the district.

### Indicators of Dyslexia

Potential indicators of dyslexia and/or other reading disabilities include, but are not be limited to:

- A. Difficulty in acquiring language skills;
- B. Inability to comprehend oral or written language;
- C. Difficulty in rhyming words;
- D. Difficulty in naming letters, recognizing letters, matching letters to sounds, and blending sounds when speaking and reading words;
- E. Difficulty recognizing and remembering sight words; consistent transposition of number sequences, letter reversals, inversions, and substitutions; and
- F. Trouble in replication of content.

The screening shall be administered by a teacher or other teaching staff member properly trained in the screening process for dyslexia and other reading disabilities. If the results of the assessment substantiate that the student possesses one or more potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities, the student shall receive a comprehensive assessment for the learning disorder. If the diagnosis of dyslexia or other reading disability is confirmed by the comprehensive assessment, appropriate evidence-based intervention strategies shall be provided

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to the student, including intense instruction on phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension.

### Legal References

N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-10 Evaluation of performance of each school

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5.1 Definitions relative to reading disabilities

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5.2 Distribution of information on screening instruments

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5.3 Screening for dyslexia, other reading disabilities

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5.4 Comprehensive assessment for learning disorder

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1 et seq. Implementation of the Core Curriculum Content Standard

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1 et seq. Implementation of the Statewide Assessment System

See particularly:

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(d), -4.3(c)(d), -4.4

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 Graduation requirements

N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. Educator effectiveness

See particularly:

N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 Evaluation procedures for all teaching staff members

N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.1 et seq. Components of principal evaluation

N.J.A.C. 6A:10-8.1 Evaluation of the superintendent

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.1 et seq. Special Education

See particularly:

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3, 3.3, 3.4, 3.8, 4.11, 4.12

N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.1 et seq. Bilingual Education

See particularly:

N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.3, -1.10, -1.11

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.1 Establishment of intervention and referral services

N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq. Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-2.1 Definitions

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.