

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

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# California State Board of Education May 2024 Agenda Item #04

## Subject

Reading Difficulties Risk Screener Selection Panel (RDRSSP): Recommendation of Review Process, Review Elements and Evaluation Criteria, and Rubric for Evaluating and Approving Screening Instruments

## Type of Action

Action, Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

*Education Code* (*EC*) Section 53008 (b) requires the California State Board of Education (SBE) to establish a review process and evaluation criteria for the RDRSSP to use to evaluate and approve screening instruments to assess pupils for risk of reading difficulties.

## Recommendation

The California Department of Education (CDE) and RDRSSP recommend that the SBE approve the Review Process, Review Elements and Evaluation Criteria, and Rubric for evaluating and approving screening instruments submitted pursuant to *EC* Section 53008.

## Brief History of Key Issues

*EC* Section 53008 requires the SBE to appoint a panel of independent experts, the RDRSSP, to create a list of evidence-based, culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate screening instruments to assess pupils in kindergarten through grade two for risk of reading difficulties, including possible neurological disorders such as dyslexia.

The SBE appointed the members of the RDRSSP in January 2024, after which the Panel has met monthly on February 16, March 15, and April 19, 2024, to consider and finalize the Review Process, Review Elements and Evaluation Criteria, and Rubric to recommend to the SBE for approval in accordance with *EC* Section 53008 (b). The RDRSSP considered the input provided by the SBE in March 2024 when Chair Young-Suk Kim provided an update to the SBE on the Panel’s activities.

The RDRSSP was guided by the following factors for evaluating screening instruments, as specified in *EC* Section 53008 (g), in establishing the Review Process, Review Elements and Evaluation Criteria, and Rubric:

* Use of direct measurement, supplemented by other pupil data, to determine if a pupil is at risk of a reading difficulty, including dyslexia.
* Measurement of domains that may predict dyslexia and other reading disorders, including, but not limited to, measures of oral language, phonological and phonemic awareness, decoding skills, letter-sound knowledge, knowledge of letter names, rapid automatized naming, visual attention, reading fluency, vocabulary, and language comprehension.
* Evidence that the tool is normed and validated using a contemporary multicultural and multilanguage sample of pupils, with outcome data for pupils whose home language is a language other than English as well as those who are native English speakers.
* Integration of relevant pupil demographic information, such as home language, English language fluency, and access to prekindergarten education, to more fully understand a pupil’s performance.
* Guidance and resources for educators regarding how to administer screening instruments, interpret results, explain results to families, including in pupils’ primary languages, and determine further educational strategies, assessments, diagnostics, and interventions that should be considered and that are specific to each type of pupil result. Guidance and resources provided shall be informed by the English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework for California Public Schools developed pursuant to *Education Code* Section 60207 and the California Dyslexia Guidelines developed pursuant to *Education Code* Section 56335, as well as knowledge of effective interventions for the specific needs of individual pupils and shall reflect a tiered interventions model aligned with the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support.

On April 19, 2024, the RDRSSP approved the Review Process, Review Elements and Evaluation Criteria, and Rubric and recommended that they be submitted to the SBE for consideration of approval. Once approved, the Panel is expected to approve and release the Request for Submission in June 2024 and begin reviewing submitted screening instruments in late summer/early fall. The approved list is expected to be posted in November 2024. The governing boards of local educational agencies (LEAs) will then have until June 30, 2025, to adopt their own lists of screening instruments for implementation in 2025–2026.

## Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

In January 2024, the SBE appointed a panel of experts to establish a list of instruments to screen students in kindergarten through grade two for risk of reading difficulties, including possible neurological disorders, such as dyslexia.

In March 2024, the SBE heard an update on the first meeting of the RDRSSP and its discussion of and amendments to the proposed review elements and evaluation criteria. Dr. Young-Suk Kim, Chair of the RDRSSP, facilitated a discussion with SBE members to collect feedback on the review elements and evaluation criteria. Chair Kim informed the SBE that the review process and evaluation criteria would be brought to the SBE in May for consideration of approval.

## Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

Section 121 of the 2023 Education Omnibus Budget Trailer Bill (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2023) allocated the sum of $1,000,000 for the establishment and operation of the RDRSSP.

## Attachment(s)

Attachment 1: [Reading Difficulties Risk Screener Selection Panel Review Process](https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/cc/rd/proposedrdrssprevprocess.asp) (please use hyperlink above to access this webpage)

Attachment 2: Reading Difficulties Risk Screener Selection Panel Review Elements and Evaluation Criteria (7 pages)

Attachment 3a: California Reading Difficulties Risk Screener Selection Panel Rubric (Approved and Recommended to the State Board of Education by RDRSSP on April 19, 2024)

Attachment 3b: California Reading Difficulties Risk Screener Selection Panel Rubric (Staff Recommendation to the State Board of Education on May 8, 2024)

Attachment 4: *EC* Section 53008 (5 pages)