



April 16, 2015

The Honorable Jim Frazier  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3091  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**AB 1369**  
**Position: OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Frazier:

On behalf of the California School Boards Association (CSBA), which represents nearly 1,000 school districts and county boards of education statewide, we must respectfully oppose your AB 1369.

Existing law requires all children with disabilities residing in the state and who are in need of special education and related services, to be identified, located, and assessed. Existing law provides that a pupil who is assessed as being dyslexic is entitled to special education and related services.

AB 1369 would require teacher training programs to include instruction in the recognition of dyslexia and other reading and writing dysfunctions in credentialing programs along with appropriate evidence-based teaching methodologies. Further, local in-service programs should also include a component on the recognition of and teaching methodologies for dyslexia or other reading and writing dysfunctions.

Finally, this bill would require the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to adopt an evidence-based screening instrument to identify pupils who have dyslexia or other reading and writing based dysfunction and then require local educational agencies (LEAs) to screen all pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive, as provided, to identify dyslexia or other reading and writing dysfunctions. LEAs would then have to notify a pupil's parent or legal guardian of any identified dyslexia or other reading and writing dysfunction.

Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability. It refers to a cluster of symptoms, which result in people having difficulties with specific language skills, particularly reading. Students with dyslexia usually experience difficulties with other language skills such as spelling, writing, and pronouncing words.

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CSBA is supportive of including components on recognizing and addressing dyslexia and other reading and writing dysfunctions in teacher preparation programs, along with providing in-service training to currently credentialed school personnel. As more children with special needs are being mainstreamed in general education classrooms, teachers need to be better prepared to address their issues.

However, we must strongly oppose the provisions of your legislation that would have every student in kindergarten and grades 1 through 3 screened for dyslexia each year. While the intent of this bill is admirable – to identify students with dyslexia or other reading and writing dysfunctions and then to provide appropriate instruction methodologies – the assumption that all students should be assessed is inappropriate. Further, the cost of screening every students in K-3 and the training necessary to implement the student screening have not been addressed by this legislation.

For all of these reasons, we must oppose your AB 1369. If you have questions regarding our position, please feel free to call me at (916) 371-4691

Sincerely,



Erika Hoffinan  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations

cc: Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell, Chair, Assembly Education Committee  
Members, Assembly Education Committee  
Rick Pratt, Chief Consultant, Assembly Education Committee  
Tanya Lieberman, Consultant, Assembly Education Committee  
Robert Becker, Principal Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus