



SELPA Administrators of California
Special Education Local Plan Area

April 14, 2015

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The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1369 (Frazier), Special Education: dyslexia – OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member O'Donnell,

On behalf of the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Administrators of California, an association of education administrators representing the special education students and professionals of California and organized to review and evaluate major special education issues, we write in opposition to AB 1369 by Assembly Member Jim Frazier, which would require local educational agencies to screen all pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, to identify dyslexia or other reading and writing dysfunctions, and to notify a pupil's parent or legal guardian of any identified dyslexia or reading and writing dysfunction.

While we appreciate the author's intent with this proposal, our concerns are as follows. First and foremost, reversals in numbers, letters or words are a part of normal growth and development up through second grade. Therefore, screening for reversals prior to this time is inappropriate because most children simply outgrow them. In fact, dyslexia has been dropped from the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V), released in May 2013 by the American Psychiatric Association.

Second, screening for dyslexia as proposed by this bill would create an unfunded mandate that would not result in any benefit for students in terms of early intervention. We do not believe this mandate is necessary because the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) does in fact provide for identification of children with specific learning disabilities, including visual and motor impairments, after normal growth and development has been ruled out. This includes vision and hearing screenings early on but not for reversals for the reasons noted above.

In light of the above, we must regrettably oppose AB 1369 and respectfully ask for your no vote when the bill comes before you in committee.

Sincerely,

Jill Heuer
Chairperson

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Education Committee
The Honorable Jim Frazier