

HB 1149

2015

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to exceptional student education;  
3 creating s. 1003.5712, F.S.; providing legislative  
4 findings; defining the term "dyslexia"; amending s.  
5 1002.20, F.S.; providing that parents of students with  
6 learning disabilities are entitled to the same notice  
7 and due process as parents of students with other  
8 disabilities; providing for the development of an  
9 individual education plan team and, if appropriate, an  
10 individual education plan; amending s. 1009.286, F.S.;  
11 exempting certain students from an excess hour  
12 surcharge for college credit hours exceeding  
13 baccalaureate degree program requirements; providing  
14 an effective date.

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
18 Section 1. Section 1003.5712, Florida Statutes, is created  
19 to read:

20 1003.5712 Dyslexia.—

21 (1) The Legislature finds that:

22 (a) Dyslexia, if not diagnosed early, can be severely  
23 detrimental to a student's academic success as well as his or  
24 her self-esteem.

25 (b) Most students identified as having markers of dyslexia  
26 can be successfully treated.

27 (c) The cost of screening and treating dyslexia early is  
 28 significantly less than the cost of intensive remediation in  
 29 later school years for a student with dyslexia.

30 (2) The term "dyslexia" means a specific learning  
 31 disability that is:

32 (a) Neurological in origin.

33 (b) Characterized by difficulties with accurate and fluent  
 34 word recognition and poor spelling and decoding abilities that  
 35 typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of  
 36 language.

37 (c) Often unexpected in relation to other cognitive  
 38 abilities.

39 Section 2. Subsection (8) and paragraph (a) of subsection  
 40 (21) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

41 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public  
 42 school students must receive accurate and timely information  
 43 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed  
 44 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12  
 45 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory  
 46 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

47 (8) STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—Parents of public school  
 48 students with disabilities, including learning disabilities,  
 49 which include, but are not limited to, dyslexia, dyscalculia, or  
 50 developmental aphasia, and parents of public school students in  
 51 residential care facilities are entitled to notice and due  
 52 process in accordance with the provisions of ss. 1003.57 and

53 | 1003.58. Public school students with learning disabilities must  
54 | be provided the opportunity to develop an individual education  
55 | plan (IEP) team and, if appropriate, an IEP in accordance with  
56 | State Board of Education rules. Public school students with  
57 | disabilities must be provided the opportunity to meet the  
58 | graduation requirements for a standard high school diploma as  
59 | set forth in s. 1003.4282 in accordance with the provisions of  
60 | ss. 1003.57 and 1008.22. Pursuant to s. 1003.438, certain public  
61 | school students with disabilities may be awarded a special  
62 | diploma upon high school graduation.

63 | (21) PARENTAL INPUT AND MEETINGS.—

64 | (a) Meetings with school district personnel.—Parents of  
65 | public school students may be accompanied by another adult of  
66 | their choice at a meeting with school district personnel. School  
67 | district personnel may not object to the attendance of such  
68 | adult or discourage or attempt to discourage, through an action,  
69 | statement, or other means, the parents of students with  
70 | disabilities from inviting another person of their choice to  
71 | attend a meeting. Such prohibited actions include, but are not  
72 | limited to, attempted or actual coercion or harassment of  
73 | parents or students or retaliation or threats of consequences to  
74 | parents or students.

75 | 1. Such meetings include, but are not limited to, meetings  
76 | related to: the eligibility for exceptional student education or  
77 | related services; the development of an individual family  
78 | support plan (IFSP); the development of an individual education

79 | plan (IEP) in accordance with subsection (8); the development of  
80 | a 504 accommodation plan issued under s. 504 of the  
81 | Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the transition of a student from  
82 | early intervention services to other services; the development  
83 | of postsecondary goals for a student with a disability and the  
84 | transition services needed to reach those goals; and other  
85 | issues that may affect the educational environment, discipline,  
86 | or placement of a student with a disability.

87 |         2. The parents and school district personnel attending the  
88 | meeting shall sign a document at the meeting's conclusion which  
89 | states whether any school district personnel have prohibited,  
90 | discouraged, or attempted to discourage the parents from  
91 | inviting a person of their choice to the meeting.

92 |         Section 3. Subsection (6) of section 1009.286, Florida  
93 | Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (7), and a new subsection  
94 | (6) is added to that section to read:

95 |             1009.286 Additional student payment for hours exceeding  
96 | baccalaureate degree program completion requirements at state  
97 | universities.—

98 |             (6) This section does not apply to a student who had an  
99 | active individual education plan in place upon receipt of a  
100 | standard high school diploma.

101 |         Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.