



Currently we have in place universal screenings for vision, hearing, height and weight at the K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 10th grades as well as all new students to the district that are not within those grade levels. We complete a scoliosis screen at 8th grade. We also complete a speech screen of all Kindergarten and 2nd grade students. With the new requirements we will now be conducting a dyslexia screening. This screening will be conducted in the fall 2018 for 1st-3rd graders and second semester for Kindergarten students. This screening is designed to be a tool to identify students that may benefit from tiered interventions to address foundational reading skill deficits; a positive result will not represent a medical diagnosis.

The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) Board of Directors (Nov. 12, 2002) and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) define dyslexia.

“Dyslexia is 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 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 intent of the screening requirement is to identify students that are struggling with literacy and to create effective systems of support.

Additionally, Missouri schools are providing training opportunities in the area of Trauma Informed Schools. The purpose of this training is to help schools better understand and respond to symptoms of trauma and traumatic stress. It is designed to help school personnel understand the impact of trauma, recognize signs and provide support. Trauma Informed Schools and Dyslexia training will focus on school personnel and be provided as a part of our Professional Development activities.

Additional Suicide Prevention and Awareness training will also be a part our Professional Development Agenda. Missouri has issued a new policy in this area with specifications for identifying students who may be at risk of suicide and students who may be having a suicide crisis. We will provide training for staff on the policy, resources available in our community, and identifying and responding to students in need. Additionally, the policy addresses educating students with age appropriate materials no later than fifth grade, as a part of our curriculum.