

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

cdoi-slo-sep24item01

# California State Board of Education September 2024 Agenda Item #12

## Subject

Reading Difficulties Risk Screener Selection Panel (RDRSSP): Recommendation to Amend Review Process

## Type of Action

Action, Information, Consent

## Summary of the Issue(s)

Education Code Section (ECS) 53008 (c)(2) requires the RDRSSP to approve a list of screening instruments to assess pupils for risk of reading difficulties by December 31, 2024, using a Review Process and Evaluation Criteria approved by the California State Board of Education (SBE).

## Recommendation

The California Department of Education (CDE) recommends that the SBE approve an amendment to the Review Process, which was approved by the SBE on May 8, 2024, pursuant to Attachment 1.

## Brief History of Key Issues

ECS 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. ECS 53008 (c)(2) requires the RDRSSP to approve a list of screening instruments to assess pupils for risk of reading difficulties by December 31, 2024, using a Review Process and Evaluation Criteria approved by the SBE.

The SBE appointed the members of the RDRSSP in January 2024, after which the Panel met monthly to draft a proposed Review Process, Review Elements and Evaluation Criteria, and Rubric to recommend to the SBE for approval in accordance with ECS 53008 (b). On April 19, 2024, the RDRSSP recommended the SBE approve its draft proposed Review Process, Review Elements and Evaluation Criteria, and Rubric and submitted them to the SBE for approval. The SBE approved the final Review Process, Review Elements and Evaluation Criteria, and Rubric on May 8, 2024. On June 12, 2024, the Panel released the Invitation to Submit Reading Difficulties Risk Screening Instruments, with a submission due date of August 30, 2024.

Under ECS 53008(c)(2), the RDRSSP has until December 31, 2024 to make its final determination and may vote to approve the list of screening instruments. The Review Process approved by the SBE at its May 2024 meeting indicated that the RDRSSP would approve the final list of screening instruments and release information for the selected screeners at its November 2024 meeting. Because the RDRSSP may need the full time available by law to make its final determination and to vote to approve the list of screening instruments, CDE’s recommended amendment to the Review Process would allow the RDRSSP the flexibility to meet and approve the list of screening instruments in December 2024, if needed.

Once the list is approved, the governing boards of local educational agencies will have until June 30, 2025, to adopt screening instruments from the Panel-approved list 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 progress of the RDRSSP from Dr. Young-Suk Kim, Chair of the RDRSSP.

In May 2024, the SBE approved the final Review Process, Review Elements and Evaluation Criteria, and Rubric that the RDRSSP will use to review and select the screening instruments.

## 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 Amendment (1 page)