



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION**

**TONY THURMOND**  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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October 16, 2020

Dear County Office of Education Superintendents:

## **Letter of Interest for the California Dyslexia Initiative**

Section 65 of Chapter 110 of the Statutes of 2020 establishes the California Dyslexia Initiative. The California Dyslexia Initiative was established to build capacity in the statewide system of support for local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide early intervention services and supports for pupils with specific learning disabilities, such as dyslexia, with a focus on improving outcomes for pupils in all education settings.

The 2020–21 State Budget (Senate Bill 820) appropriated \$4 million—\$2 million from Proposition 98 local assistance funding and \$2 million from Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) state-level activities funding—to the California Dyslexia Initiative, with up to \$500,000 of this appropriation to be used for administration of the program by the designated county office of education (COE). The designated COE shall contract with a California postsecondary educational institution, selected in consultation with the executive director of the State Board of Education (SBE), to expand the state's dyslexia and specific learning disabilities early identification and evidence-based best practices for supports and services in furtherance of the California Dyslexia Initiative.

The California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE), with approval from the Executive Director of the State Board of Education, shall designate an interested and qualified COE to administer the California Dyslexia Initiative in direct collaboration and consultation with the CDE, the CCEE, and the postsecondary educational institution. Responses to this letter will be used to assist the CDE and CCEE, with approval from the Executive Director of the SBE, in the selection of the designated COE.

The CDE and CCEE are seeking letters of interest from COEs that have interest and the capacity to serve in this role. The letter should include a confirmation of the COE's eligibility under Section 119(c) of Chapter 24 of the Statutes of 2020, as amended by Section 65 of SB 820

([http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200SB820](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB820)), and address the following:

- A description of the COE's efforts to build educator capacity that align with the California Dyslexia guidelines

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- A description of the COE's experience working collaboratively with the CDE and CCEE in the statewide system of support
- The capacity to contract and collaborate with a postsecondary educational institution to advance the California Dyslexia Initiative
- The ability to disseminate resources, research, and professional development models developed through the California Dyslexia Initiative throughout the statewide system of support and align with other statewide initiatives
- The ability to monitor fiscal compliance in accordance with the requirements of IDEA and state grant/contracting requirements

The CDE and CCEE staff will review the letters and conduct follow-up interviews with promising applicant COEs to gain additional information about their capacity to serve as the administrator of the California Dyslexia Initiative, their capacity to complete the work, and their willingness to be flexible and adaptable to meet the demands of the work.

The CDE and CCEE will consider the information provided from the Letters of Interest and COE interviews to inform the selection. The final selection of the designated COE is subject to approval from the executive director of the SBE.

The selected COE will be required to enter into a grant agreement with CDE, specifying terms and conditions governing the requirements of the legislation as well as an allowable use of funds, fiscal activity reporting, and IDEA accountability. Following the selection of the postsecondary institution partner, the selected COE shall submit an expenditure plan for the allocated funds to the Department of Finance for approval by January 20, 2021, which must include the estimated allocation to the postsecondary educational institution.

Please submit your letter of interest by **4 p.m. on Friday, October 30, 2020**, by email to [dyslexiainitiative@cde.ca.gov](mailto:dyslexiainitiative@cde.ca.gov), please include "**CDI Letter of Interest**" in the subject line. Letters should be no longer than five pages, 12-point font, and must be submitted as a Word document attachment. COEs that do not submit a response by the specified deadline will be excluded from the selection process.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact the Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division by email at [dyslexiainitiative@cde.ca.gov](mailto:dyslexiainitiative@cde.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Rachael Maves, Deputy Superintendent  
Instruction and Measurement Branch

RM:jb