



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Directors and Coordinators of Special Education

FROM: John R. Payne, Director
Office of Special Education Services

DATE: December 15, 2015

RE: Recent OSEP Guidance on Dyslexia

On October 23, 2015, the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), released a guidance document regarding the unique educational needs of children with dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia, which are conditions that could qualify a child with a specific learning disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Attached please find a copy of the October 23, 2015, "Dear Colleague Letter."

The South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services (OSES), provides this guidance to you and your Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams for review and consideration. It is important to note that nothing in the IDEA or State regulations, policies, or procedures prohibit the use of these terms in IDEA evaluation, eligibility determinations, or IEP documents. In addition, as outlined in the IDEA at 34 C.F.R. § 300.8 and South Carolina State Board of Education Regulation (SBE R.) 43-243.1, a specific learning disability includes dyslexia (and other similar conditions) as a perceptual disability that may qualify a child for services under the IDEA as long as the child has been evaluated in accordance with 34 C.F.R. § 300.304-300.311 and SBE R.43-243 and found eligible using the criteria listed at 34 C.F.R. § 300.8 and SBE R.43-243.1.

Please carefully review OSERS's guidance on this matter. Should you have any questions or need technical assistance, please contact the OSES at 803-734-8224, or e-mail me at jrpayne@ed.sc.gov.

Attachment