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News Release

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School Board Approves Dyslexia Resolution

LOS ANGELES - In an effort to identify students who have symptoms of dyslexia as early as possible, and provide the interventions that improve literacy outcomes for most children, the Los Angeles Board of Education unanimously approved today a resolution: "Recognizing and Addressing the Educational Implications of Dyslexia in LAUSD Schools."

Children with dyslexia, a common learning disability, have trouble learning to read. They may also have difficulty with comprehension, spelling, writing and math computations.

School Board Member Dr. Ref Rodriguez said, "I am proud to author this resolution in order to help ensure that L.A. Unified lives up to its critical responsibility to ensure a high quality education for children with dyslexia." He added, "We thank the community for bringing this important issue to our attention and for the statewide advocacy and support for this resolution. Today's unanimous vote by the board will positively impact literacy for all students."

His co-sponsor School Board Member Scott Schmerleson said, "We simply cannot allow some kids to fall farther and farther behind because of undiagnosed dyslexia and the learning and literacy problems that this condition creates. I sincerely believe that increasing early identification and effective intervention for our students with dyslexia will be life-changing for many children and their families."

According to the resolution, new state guidelines, which will take effect with the start of the 2017-18 school year, are expected to be used by "general education teachers, special education teachers and parents to identify and assess pupils with dyslexia, and to plan, provide, evaluate and improve educational services."

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“We must continue to personalize instruction in Los Angeles in order to reach our goal of success for all students,” said Board Member Mónica García, who also is a co-sponsor. “This resolution will help us learn about meeting the needs of our students with dyslexia.”

The resolution also directs Superintendent Michelle King to: create a plan that provides teacher and staff training necessary to improve understanding dyslexia and its warning signs; appropriate evidence-based instruction and accommodations; and report back to the Board of Education within 90 days.

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