



# Decoding Dyslexia CA Movement Reaches a New Milestone

*California Dyslexia Guidelines and structured literacy to be required learning for teacher candidates in California.*

In October of 2022, California took a significant step towards improving literacy for its students when the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) unanimously approved new literacy requirements for teacher candidates.

## What does this mean?

For the first time in California history, teacher candidates will learn about dyslexia and its characteristics, how to screen for risk of dyslexia and how to teach using a structured literacy approach as defined in the California Dyslexia Guidelines. The new literacy standards emphasize a preventative approach in addressing literacy, including risk of dyslexia, through the use of screening, progress monitoring and early intervention.



At this time, most teacher candidates are not being taught by their credentialing/preparation programs about the most common learning disability that affects between 5 and 20% of the population. This means that sitting in a typical California classroom of 25 students, there are between one and five children with, or at risk of, dyslexia who are being instructed by someone without the understanding and tools to actually teach these students how to read.

The new literacy requirements will impact elementary, middle and high school teaching credentials, as well as the special education credentials and the newly-adopted PK-3 credential. All teacher credentialing programs must align their coursework and field experiences with the new literacy requirements no later than July 1, 2024.

With these new teacher candidate requirements, California is one step closer to much-needed, long awaited improved literacy for millions of California's children in the years to come.

*Decoding Dyslexia CA has been working for years to influence this milestone. In 2016, DDCA laid the foundation by sponsoring Assembly Bill 1369, which resulted in the California Dyslexia Guidelines. A few years later, DDCA worked closely with Senator Susan Rubio's staff in drafting Senate Bill 488. SB 488, which tightened credentialing standards, was signed into law in October 2021. Subsequently, DDCA provided CTC staff with feedback throughout the ongoing development of the newly-approved literacy requirements.*