



# A Brighter Education for Dyslexia

“To Empower, Educate and Instill Hope to families affected by Dyslexia”.



# Introduction

- Stacey Evans, Founder and Director of A Brighter Education for Dyslexia (BED), a local non-profit organization.
- Our mission is: “To empower families to become strong advocates for their student”.
- Unique Perspective:
  - Former Conroe ISD teacher with the ability to see both sides of the conversation: as a former teacher and a parent of three kids that are dyslexic.



# How do we educate our families?

- By inviting in community experts on related to topics.
- By encouraging parents to work with the school constructively and as a team.
- By focusing parents on the goal to achieve a successful school year and thorough education for their child.



# Speakers at our Events

- Dr. Ryan, Psychologist at Connect Psychology, Topic **ADHD and Childhood Anxiety**
- Dr. Prins, Psychologist **Motivation**
- Meredith Watts former CISD Dyslexia Coordinator
- Karen Cunningham, Special Education Boss
- Sarah Hood, owner of Read Frog
- Dr. Bergman, Founder of Family Literacy Network
- Kimberly Vogel, **Dysgraphia**
- Learning Ally, **Audiobooks**
- Kellie Cole, Dyslexia and your child
- Chris Woodin, Landmark College, **Dyslexia & Math**
- Debbi Robison, Reading Intervention Teacher presents Neuhaus curriculum
- Mary Yarus, Region 4 ESC, Dyslexia Handbook
- **SBOE Dr. Audrey Young, Changes to the Dyslexia Handbook**
- **SBOE Will Hickman**
- **Scott Moore, former Conroe ISD School Board vice-chairman**
- Julie Janorsche, **Executive Functioning**
- Jessica Beckham, CISD Counselor, **SAT//ACT & STAAR**
- Amanda Strickland, How much pressure to place on your kid.
- Kerry Leena
- Melanie Vernier, Dysgraphia & Handwriting
- Teri Walker, Reading & Radio Resource
- Polly Gardner-Phonics To Reading Comprehension
- BECKY LEBLANC, A Visual Approach to Learning Kaledoscopes
- Mrs. Carrie Karr, Knox Junior High Language Arts Teacher
- **Cristal Sawyer, The Gifted Child, The Beauty of Dyslexia**
- Crystal Sawyer, GradePower Learning
- Dr. Sharon Henry, Conroe ISD Dyslexia & reading specialist
- Melinda Condon, STAAR, A Parent's Perspective
- Microsoft Store, Empower Dyslexia Students
- Parent Panel





**A BRIGHTER EDUCATION FOR DYSLEXIA PRESENTS...**

# READING AND DYSLEXIA: WHAT EVERY FAMILY SHOULD KNOW

**Presenter:**  
Lara Speights  
Vice President of Family Support  
and Adult Literacy,  
Neuhaus Education Center

**Presenter:**  
Mary Murrill, North  
member of the Family Support  
Team  
and Special Project Coordinator,  
Neuhaus Education Center



**Location**  
Crossroads Baptist Church, The  
Woodlands 5000 College Park Dr  
The Woodlands, TX 77384

**Date and time**  
Wed, October 19, 2022,  
7:00 PM

**FREE ADMISSION**

281-744-5496


[www.brightereducationdyslexia.org](http://www.brightereducationdyslexia.org)



**A Brighter Education for Dyslexia Presents**

## High School & College Readiness

**A Brighter Education for Dyslexia parent support group welcomes our first speaker of the 2021-2022 school year, Mrs. Jessica Beckham. Mrs. Beckham currently works at Conroe High School as the College and Career Counselor. In our meeting, Mrs. Beckham will cover how to prepare your student for high school and applying for college. Students are highly encouraged to attend!**



Wednesday,  
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
Crossroads Baptist Church  
Woodlands  
5000 College Park Dr  
The Woodlands, TX 77384

[www.brightereducationdyslexia.org](http://www.brightereducationdyslexia.org)

**A BRIGHTER EDUCATION FOR DYSLEXIA**

Dr. Gregory Ryan with Connect Psychology presents the "Social & Emotional Stressors associated with Learning Challenges". Educators Welcome!

**JOIN NOW**

[www.brightereducationdyslexia.org](http://www.brightereducationdyslexia.org)



# Observations & Recommendations based on BED Members on the following Topics



# Positive observations related to our Conroe ISD Dyslexia Department

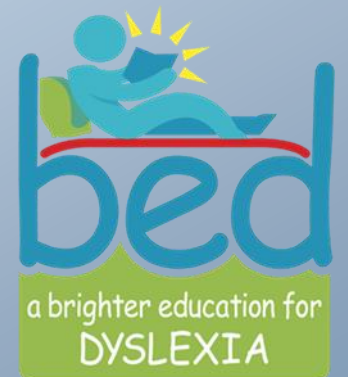
- October Dyslexia Parent Information Night
- Dyslexia Parent Advisory Committee via zoom = quarterly
- Strong department Leadership
- Quality K-6 Reading Intervention (Dyslexia)
  - Reading Intervention teachers' enthusiasm leads to positive student outcomes
  - Reading Intervention teachers are enthusiastic to learn best practices
    - Example: Attending conferences
      - Stay current with research
      - Refreshers





# Recommendation #1: Hire qualified Educators

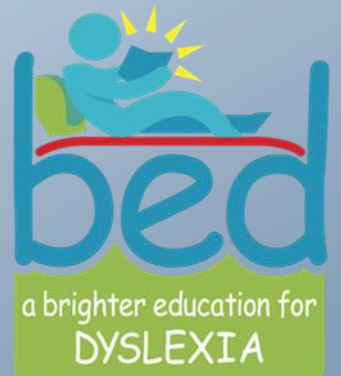
- **Hire** more Reading Intervention Teachers and Admin
  - The Dyslexia department is short handed due to the departure of Traci Landis.
- Conroe ISD currently has 73,000 students in the district.
- Conroe ISD has approximately 4,000 dyslexia students.
  - 4000 students that require constant progress monitoring and support
- Support the existing staff and retention
  - Overworked
  - Filling various positions
  - Create a culture that supports our staff so that they are able to do their job with enthusiasm. If overworked, they forget the reason why they became a teacher.





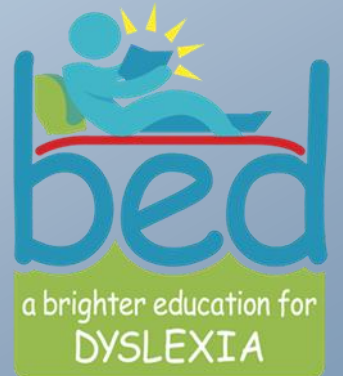
# Recommendation #1 Continued: Identifying Dyslexia in the Full and Individual Initial Evaluation (FIIE)

- Diagnosticians
  - Need to **hire** more diagnosticians
  - Work-load of diagnosticians = retention
    - Provide opportunity for Diags to opt in to work extra hours on the weekends/summer to finish evaluation reports
- Diagnosticians do not feel that they are trained in identifying dyslexia
  - Leads to under identification of students with dyslexia
  - Loss of academic growth of individual student resulting in not being identified



# Identifying Dyslexia in the Full and Individual Initial Evaluation (FIE) continued.....

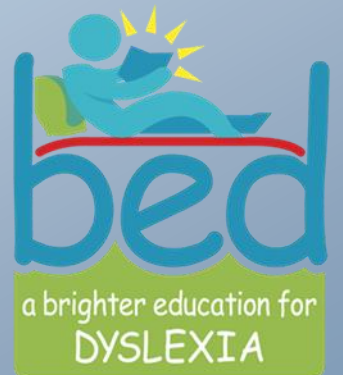
- Allow evaluations to be performed during the summer with compensation
  - Prevents non-compliance of meeting federal timelines identified under IDEA
    - How many cases are there of evaluations out of timeline?
  - Prevents a back log from previous school year
  - Supports student learning and receiving the services needed for student growth
  - Proactively prevents disagreements at initial ARD meeting and potential for IEEs
    - How many IEE's do parents request each year?



# Recommendation #2: Conroe ISD SPED/504 for Dyslexia

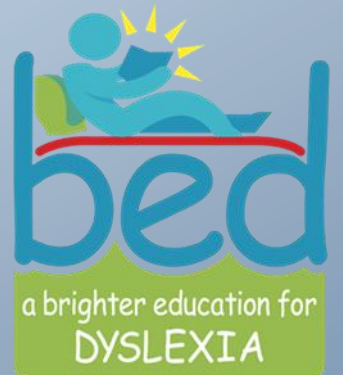
- Communication

- Parents need communication on progress.
- Acronyms (example: What is RTI? Show a diagram of the RTI structure.)
- Know your audience when communicating.
- Parents want to know their parental rights in this process.
- Parents need to fully understand their options = 504 vs SPED testing. Also, if they qualify for SPED, they don't have to receive SPED services = they can choose 504.



# Recommendation #2 continued: Conroe ISD SPED/504 for Dyslexia

- Parents need to be notified that their student is at risk  
(Phone call by counselor)
  - Dyslexia screener(mClass report), reading fluency, etc,
  - Clear indications on screeners and assessments that state where the student currently is and where they should be at that time = FIE Timeline
- Provide a simple timeline so that parents know expectations  
(Handout or provided via email)
- Train all educators that attend 504/ARD meetings
- Prevent misinformation to parent



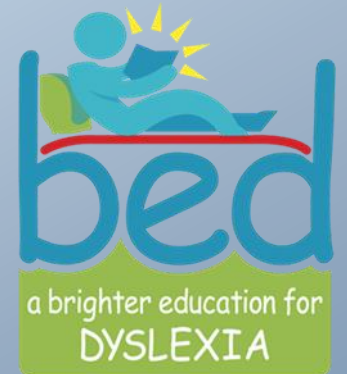


# A vocabulary lesson...

\*\*\*FIE (Initial Evaluation) - completed by School district as **projected expense**.

\*\*\*Private/Outside Evaluation - performed by an outside evaluator. **Parent incurs expense**.

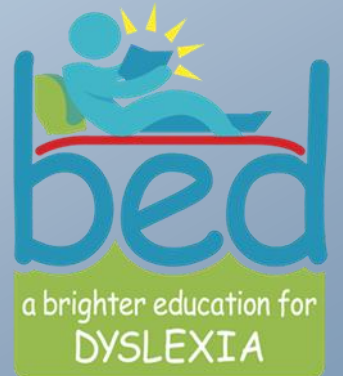
\*\*\*IEE (Independent Education Evaluation) - performed by evaluator on district contract list. **District incurs additional expense**. This is performed when the parents disagree with the school findings.



# Recommendation #3: FIE and Outside Evaluations

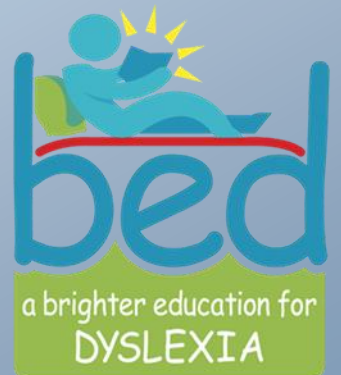
Create a District guide presented to parents that provides:

- Criteria that should be met by outside evaluations.
  - What criteria does the outside evaluations have to follow so that they are accepted and not test the student again?
  - What credentials do the outside evaluators have to have in order for the school to accept the outside evaluation?
  - What diagnostic tests must be met so that the outside evaluation is accepted?



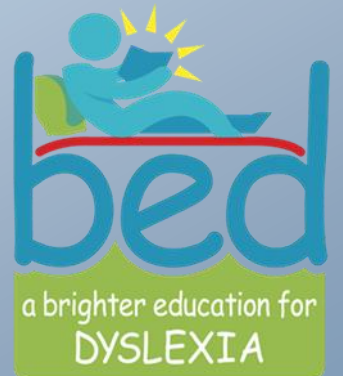
# Recommendation #3: FIE and Outside Evaluations continued....

- Why is this important?
  - Saves the district time so that they can evaluate other students
  - Protects the student from being evaluated several times
  - Values student loss of time in instruction
  - Saves the parent money (approximately \$2000)



# Recommendation #4: IEE (An Independent Education Evaluation)

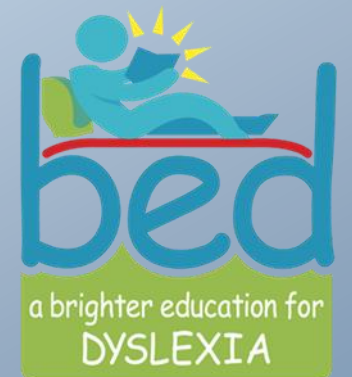
- **Communication** with Parents:
  - What are the district procedures?
  - Who is in charge of this process?
  - Who makes the rules on the cost?
  - Who has the list of evaluators?
  - What are the credentials of the evaluators per district procedures
- This processes is taking too long.
  - Meanwhile the student does not receive the support needed to be successful in the classroom.
- Cost to the district





# Final Thoughts: Reading Curriculum

- K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Literacy Programs
  - Dyslexia program must crossover/relevant to all subject matters.
  - Tier 1 literacy instruction must follow the methodology of Science of Reading.
    - Affects all students.
- Communicate, support and hire = positive educational outcomes.



**Literacy is the foundation of our education and society. Without the ability to read, student success is limited not only in education but in life.**



Thank you for inviting me to be a participant of this workshop!

