



## Licensed Dyslexia Therapists and Licensed Dyslexia Practitioners in Texas A Fact Sheet for Professionals

### **WHAT DO LICENSED DYSLEXIA THERAPISTS AND LICENSED DYSLEXIA PRACTITIONERS DO?**

Licensed Dyslexia Therapists and Licensed Dyslexia Practitioners are dyslexia remediation professionals who have voluntarily chosen to be licensed by the state of Texas under the provisions of Occupations Code, Chapter 403. They provide educational services and tools to individuals with dyslexia, including multisensory structured language education.

### **SINCE LICENSURE IS VOLUNTARY, WHY WOULD AN EDUCATOR CHOOSE TO BE LICENSED?**

Licensed dyslexia therapists and practitioners choose to be licensed so the public can identify them as dyslexia-service providers who meet the minimum standards set forth by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The standards include passing an examination, completing classroom training, completing clinical experience, and conducting demonstration lessons. Since licensed dyslexia therapists and licensed dyslexia practitioners are required to complete continuing education classes biennially to maintain licensure, the public will know that licensed educators are maintaining and upgrading their skills and knowledge in order to provide quality services. Those who choose to be licensed are regulated by the state of Texas in order to increase public confidence in their practice. When an educator is licensed, the public may report violations of the Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 403, or rules to DSHS through the complaint and investigation process.

### **WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A LICENSED DYSLEXIA PRACTITIONER AND A LICENSED DYSLEXIA THERAPIST? WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE?**

A Licensed Dyslexia Practitioner:

- holds a BACHELOR'S degree (or an advanced degree) from a regionally accredited public or private institution of higher education;
- has successfully completed a training program accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) that included, at a minimum:
  - at least 45 hours of course work in multisensory structured language education;
  - at least 60 hours of supervised clinical experience in multisensory structured language education;
  - at least 5 demonstration lessons of the practice of multisensory structured language education.
- has successfully passed the Alliance National Registration Examination for Multisensory Structured Language Education Associate/Teaching Level administered by the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA).

A Licensed Dyslexia Therapist:

- holds a MASTER'S degree (or a more advanced degree) from a regionally accredited public or private institution of higher education;
- has successfully completed a training program accredited by IMSLEC that included, at a minimum:
  - at least 200 hours of course work in multisensory structured language education;
  - at least 700 hours of supervised clinical experience in multisensory structured language education;
  - at least 10 demonstration lessons of the practice of multisensory structured language education.
- has successfully completed the Alliance National Registration Examination for Multisensory Structured Language Education Therapist Level administered by ALTA.

## **HOW DOES ONE BECOME LICENSED?**

The application for licensure can be found on the following website: [www.dshs.state.tx.us/dyslexia](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/dyslexia). You must document the highest degree you have earned by submitting an original college transcript. Copies of transcripts will not be accepted. You must also document completion of the required number of coursework hours, supervised clinical experience hours, and demonstration lessons from an IMSLEC-accredited training program. You must also pass the required examination administered by the Academic Language Therapy Association. You may submit a photocopy of your *current* ALTA membership card as documentation of having completed the required training and passing the required exam. If you are *not* currently certified by ALTA, you must include certificates and/or letters from your training programs showing proof of completion of the required number of coursework hours, supervised clinical experience hours, and completed demonstration lessons. If you are *not* currently a member of ALTA, you must also submit proof of passing the required examination.

## **WHERE CAN I FIND A LIST OF ACCREDITED TRAINING PROGRAMS?**

For a list of accredited training programs, please visit the website for the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council at [www.imslec.org](http://www.imslec.org).

## **WHAT ARE THE PROCEDURES CONCERNING THE REMEDIATION OF DYSLEXIA AND OTHER RELATED DISORDERS?**

The primary resource is the Texas Education Agency's *Dyslexia Handbook*. You can access the handbook through the following link: [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us).

---

Dyslexia Licensing Program  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
PO Box 149347  
Mail Code 2003  
Austin, TX 78714-9347

(512) 834 6656  
(512) 834 6677 (fax)  
[Dyslexia@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:Dyslexia@dshs.state.tx.us)  
[www.dshs.state.tx.us/dyslexia](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/dyslexia)

Publication # 02-13578  
Revised June 2013