



CAC Proposal to PTAC Exec Board 2/3/21

Prepared jointly with PTAC VP Special Education, Ann Xu

Literacy is core to a child's well being and their ability to be a lifelong learner.

We propose drafting a letter requesting that CAPTA support SB 237 on Universal Screening for Dyslexia. CAPTA, PTAC, and PAUSD have already passed resolutions on Dyslexia which describe:

1. Dyslexia is neurobiological and impacts the understanding and use of spoken AND written language. These difficulties are unrelated to intelligence or effort.
2. It is estimated that 1 in 5 people display some signs or symptoms of dyslexia, making it the most common form of learning disability. Due to inadequate screening, few are aware that they have it.
3. Research shows that one of the greatest factors to increasing reading scores is the **early** and accurate identification of students at risk for dyslexia, plus early intervention while the brain is most plastic.
4. in June 2017, [CA State PTA Adopted a Statewide Dyslexia Resolution](#) recognizing that dyslexia has significant educational implications that need to be better addressed by public schools including the need for:
 - Teacher training in dyslexia and its warning signs, and training in appropriate evidence-based Structured Literacy Instruction;
 - Early screening for symptoms of dyslexia in kindergarten through the third grade, with parental notification; and
 - Promoting knowledge of appropriate accommodations for dyslexic students.
5. CA is one of several states to develop comprehensive [Dyslexia Guidelines](#) which call for:
 - Universal screening of all students beginning in kindergarten for students "at risk" for dyslexia.
 - Implementing effective reading programs as early as kindergarten to help close the achievement gap.
6. In January 2018, PAUSD approved its [Dyslexia Resolution](#) committing to supporting educators and families in addressing the needs of students with dyslexia, using universal screening, identification and evidence-based reading interventions.
7. In October 2019, Palo Alto PTA Council [endorsed](#) the California State PTA Dyslexia Resolution.
8. If passed, [SB 237](#) will require the State Board of Education, beginning in the 2022-23 school year, to provide dyslexia screening instruments to be used annually by schools to identify students who are "at risk" for dyslexia. The bill is aimed at improving test scores and graduation rates, while also helping to destigmatize reading troubles for children.