



December 27, 2023

Greetings –

I hope those who celebrate had a wonderful Christmas and that everyone had a good holiday weekend and are getting time to spend with family and friends.

Dyslexia Task Force Act Signed into Law by Governor Hochul

I wanted to share with you the big news that Governor Hochul signed my “Dyslexia Task Force Act” ([A.133/S.2599](#)) this past Friday. I first introduced this bill in 2019, so I am very glad to finally see it become law and I am so grateful to the parents, students, teachers, and advocacy groups across the state who were in the forefront in calling for it to be passed and then signed by the Governor. The legislation requires the New York State Education Department Commissioner to establish a task force that brings a wide range of stakeholders together to hold public hearings and examine appropriate and effective evidence-based screening methods, reading interventions and other educational supports for dyslexia and dysgraphia. The task force will submit a report of findings and recommendations to the Governor and legislature within twelve months. This is an important first step to ensuring that there is a consistent and effective approach statewide to meeting the needs of students with dyslexia and dysgraphia.



LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW



FROM
**ASSEMBLY MEMBER
ROBERT CARROLL**



GOVERNOR HOCHUL SIGNS ASSEMBLYMEMBER CARROLL'S BILL (A.133/S.2599) ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON DYSLEXIA AND DYSGRAPHIA

This law will require the Commissioner of the New York State Education Department to establish a task force to examine and hold public hearings regarding appropriate and effective evidence-based screening methods, reading interventions and other educational supports for dyslexia and dysgraphia for students in kindergarten through grade five.

“This legislation marks an important step towards holistically addressing the needs of students with dyslexia and dysgraphia. I am confident that under State Education Commissioner Betty Rosa’s leadership the task force will arrive at substantive recommendations for evidence based screening methods, interventions, and supports for students with dyslexia and dysgraphia. I look forward to the public hearings the task force will hold and continuing to engage with families, advocates, experts, and my colleagues in government to make sure all our children can be fluent readers and succeed in school.”

— **Assemblymember Robert Carroll**

prime sponsor of this legislation in the Assembly

Other Priority Bills Regarding Literacy

Along with the Dyslexia Task Force Act, I introduced two other bills this past year regarding dyslexia and literacy education that I will be prioritizing this coming legislative session.

The Dyslexia Diagnosis Access Act ([A.2898/S.5481](#)) would mandate that private health insurance policies pay for neuropsychological exams for the purpose of diagnosing dyslexia. Such exams may cost in excess of six thousand dollars and are typically not paid for by health

insurance, making them unaffordable to most families. This bill passed the Assembly in June, and I will be working with my Assembly and Senate colleagues to see it pass both houses.

My work on dyslexia has led me to understand the broader literacy crisis New York State is facing. Seventy percent of fourth graders are not reading at grade level according to the results of the federal National Assessment of Educational Progress for 2022, due in part to the failure to adopt curriculum based on the science of reading for both students with characteristics of dyslexia and the general population. My Right to Read Act ([A.2897/S.5480](#)) would require the State Education Department to provide guidance to school districts to establish literacy curricula based on the science of reading as the standard throughout the state, set standards for teacher training and professional development aligned with evidence based curricula, and require the state to take a more active role in supporting and monitoring the progress districts are making in teaching reading.

I look forward to the work of the Dyslexia Task Force and continuing to engage with families, advocates, experts, and my colleagues in government to make sure all our children can be fluent readers and succeed in school. I am hopeful that 2024 will be a year where we can make real progress on literacy education in New York State and so many other matters of vital importance.

If you have any concerns about any legislative or community issue, please email me at carrollr@nyassembly.gov or call (718) 788-7221. Please note our offices are closed through Monday, January 1. If you email us, we will respond when we get back beginning Tuesday, January 2.

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