

# LIBERTY CENTER LOCAL SCHOOLS: LITERACY PROTOCOL & DYSLEXIA SUPPORT



At Liberty Center Local Schools, we are committed to the Science of Reading. Our goal is to ensure that every student becomes a confident, decoding, and fluent reader through evidence-based instruction and early identification of reading barriers, including dyslexia.

## The Simple View of Reading



### Our Instructional Framework: Structured Literacy

In accordance with ORC 3323.251, Liberty Center provides a Structured Literacy approach. This means instruction is explicit, systematic, and cumulative. We use research-backed programs:

Five Pillars of Reading	Liberty Center Curriculum	Description
Phonemic Awareness	Heggerty	Students participate in daily "ear training" to recognize and manipulate the individual sounds in words. This is the foundation of reading success.
Phonics	University of Florida Literacy (UFLI)	Using the University of Florida Literacy Institute program, we teach the "code" of the English language. Students learn letter-sound correspondences and how to blend them to read and spell words accurately.
Vocabulary Fluency Reading Comprehension	American Reading Company (ARC)	The ARC system bridges the gap between decoding and deep meaning. Students engage in high-volume reading at their specific "Power Level" to build fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension through thematic units.

Our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) integrates Structured Literacy by using i-Ready, ARC, and UFLI data to identify a student's specific area of focus. This data-driven approach allows us to proactively build a targeted intervention plan that adjusts the pace and intensity of instruction to meet each student's unique reading needs.

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## Understanding Dyslexia & Our Screening Process

What is Dyslexia?

As defined by Ohio's Dyslexia Guidebook, dyslexia is a neurobiological learning disorder characterized by difficulties with accurate word recognition, spelling, and decoding. These challenges typically stem from a deficit in the phonological component of language and are not a reflection of a child's intelligence.

### The Ohio Dyslexia Screening Process

In compliance with ORC 3323.251, Liberty Center follows a tiered protocol to identify and support students with reading barriers.

- Kindergarten: **All** students are screened once between January 1st of their Kindergarten year and January 1st of their 1st Grade year.
- Parental & Teacher Requests: In addition to universal windows, Liberty Center will screen any student in Grades 1-6 upon the request of a parent, guardian, or teacher.
- Transfer Students: Students in grades K-6 who transfer into the district without a prior screening record will be screened within 30 days.

Our Screening Process: i-Ready Liberty Center uses i-Ready as our state-approved Tier 1 universal screener. The following are the potential results of that screening. Parents will receive a letter with your child's results when screening is complete.

- At Risk: Students in this category show significant gaps. Per Ohio law, we begin a 6-week progress monitoring period to determine if a targeted intervention plan is needed.
- At Some Risk: For students in this zone, we simply continue to monitor their progress closely. We keep tabs on these students using classroom data, UFLI mastery checks, and ARC levels to ensure they remain on track.
- No Risk: These students are meeting or exceeding grade-level benchmarks. They continue to receive high-quality Tier 1 Structured Literacy instruction (Heggerty, UFLI, and ARC) within the general education classroom.

### Identification vs. Diagnosis

Per the Ohio Dyslexia Guidebook, it is important to distinguish between school-based identification and a medical diagnosis:

- We Identify Tendencies: We use screeners to identify dyslexia tendencies. This allows us to legally and educationally provide immediate, evidence-based instruction to support a student's specific needs.
- We Do Not Diagnose: A formal dyslexia diagnosis is a clinical or medical conclusion made by a healthcare professional or neuropsychologist. Liberty Center identifies the educational need and provides support regardless of whether a medical diagnosis exists.

Additional information about dyslexia can be found here:

