

## DYSLEXIA THERAPY AT A GLANCE

**Statutes:** Chapter 403, Occupations Code

**Rules:** Title 16 T.A.C. Chapter 120

**Practice Act?** No

**Title Act?** Yes

**Inspections?** No

**Number of Licensees:** 1,116 (FY 23)

**Webpage:** <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/dtp/dtp.htm>

### Overview:

The TDLR Dyslexia Therapy program licenses and regulates licensed dyslexia therapists and licensed dyslexia practitioners. Licensed dyslexia therapists and licensed dyslexia practitioners are dyslexia educators in Texas who have met the minimum amount of coursework, clinical experience, demonstration lessons, and required examinations for each title.

A license is required to use the titles "Licensed Dyslexia Therapist" and "Licensed Dyslexia Practitioner."

Licensed dyslexia therapists and licensed dyslexia practitioners are authorized to provide multisensory structured language education. Multisensory structured language education is a program described by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) for the treatment of individuals with dyslexia and related disorders that provides instruction in the skills of reading, writing, and spelling.

### What is the difference between a licensed dyslexia practitioner and a licensed dyslexia therapist?

#### *A Licensed Dyslexia Practitioner:*

- holds a bachelor's degree (or a more advanced degree) from an 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 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, each observed by an instructor; and
- has successfully passed the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) Competency Examination for Multisensory Structured Language Education: Practitioner Level.



- A person who holds current certification as an academic language practitioner issued by ALTA is deemed to have satisfied the training and examination requirements.
- A licensed dyslexia practitioner may practice in, or provide telehealth services from, a remote location only to an educational setting, including a school, learning center, or clinic.

#### *A Licensed Dyslexia Therapist:*

- holds a master's degree (or a more advanced degree) from an 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, each observed by an instructor; and
- has successfully passed the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) Examination for Multisensory Structured Language Education: Therapist Level.
- A person who holds current certification as an academic language therapist issued by ALTA is deemed to have satisfied the training and examination requirements.
- A licensed dyslexia therapist may practice in, or provide telehealth services from a remote location to a school, learning center, clinic, or private practice setting.

License	Fees
Dyslexia Practitioner Initial License	\$150
Dyslexia Practitioner License Renewal	\$150
Dyslexia Therapist Initial License	\$150
Dyslexia Therapist License Renewal	\$150
Duplicate License	\$25

### Requirements for License Renewals

To renew a dyslexia therapist and dyslexia practitioner license, a licensee must complete the following:

- 20 hours of continuing education during the previous two-year period; and
- for renewals on or after Sept. 1, 2020, an HHSC-approved training course on identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking.

Dyslexia Therapist and Dyslexia Practitioner licenses are valid for two years.

### Schools

Texas school districts are currently not required by state law to employ licensed dyslexia practitioners or licensed dyslexia therapists. A school district may choose to require that the district's dyslexia educators hold a TDLR license. That choice is made at the local level and is not required by state law. However, each regional service center must employ at least one licensed dyslexia therapist.

### Program History:

The Dyslexia Therapy program was moved to TDLR by Senate Bill 202 (84R), which transferred thirteen programs to TDLR from the Department of State Health Services.

TDLR assumed all activities relating to the Dyslexia Therapy program on October 3, 2016, including licenses and renewals, customer service, and enforcement.

The **Dyslexia Therapists and Practitioners Advisory Committee** has five members serving six-year terms, which includes:

- two dyslexia therapists licensed under the Act;
- one dyslexia practitioner licensed under the Act; and
- two consumer or public members, one of whom must be a person with dyslexia or the parent of a person with dyslexia.