Dyslexia

Dyslexia is also known as a Specific Reading Disability. The students affected will struggle with reading and spelling while displaying average ability to learn in the absence of print. They can benefit from the same classroom instruction that benefits most children. But they will continue to struggle with some or all of the many facets of reading and spelling.

The Texas Education Code (TEC) §38.003 defines dyslexia in the following way:

(1) Dyslexia means a disorder of constitutional origin manifested by a difficulty in learning to read, write, or spell, despite conventional instruction, adequate intelligence, and sociocultural opportunity.

(2) Related disorders include disorders similar to or related to dyslexia such as developmental auditory imperceptions, dysphasia, specific developmental dyslexia, developmental dysgraphia, and developmental spelling disability.

The primary difficulties of a student identified as having dyslexia occur in

* Phonemic awareness and manipulation, single-word decoding, reading fluency, and spelling.
* Secondary consequences of dyslexia may include difficulties in reading comprehension and/or written expression.
* These difficulties are unexpected or the student’s age, educational level, or cognitive abilities.
* Additionally, there is often a family history of similar difficulties.

According to researchers, early identification is critical because the earlier the intervention, the easier it is to remediate. If at risk students are not provided intervention by age eight, they have a 74% chance of continuing their reading difficulties into high school. The dyslexic reader has a different brain that will change provided the right intervention. A phonologic weakness blocks decoding, this in turn interferes with word identification. This prevents a dyslexic reader from applying his higher-level skills to get at a word’s meaning. But even if he can’t identify the word specifically, he/she can apply these higher-level skills to the context around the unknown word to guess at its meaning.