



For Immediate Release

Idaho State Department of Education Approves Lee Pesky Learning Center to Offer a Course Which Fulfills the Dyslexia Professional Development Requirement for Educators

September 22, 2022— Lee Pesky Learning Center (LPLC), an education nonprofit based in Idaho, has been approved by Idaho’s State Department of Education to offer a course which fulfills the dyslexia professional development requirement for educators.

According to the National Center on Learning Disabilities, one in five people have learning and attention challenges. This includes dyslexia—a challenge which is neurobiological in origin and is characterized by difficulties with word recognition, fluency, spelling, and decoding.

House Bill 731 went into effect this past July, requiring the Idaho State Department of Education to identify reliable, valid, and evidence-based screening tools and intervention practices to evaluate the literacy skills of students in kindergarten through fifth grade for characteristics of dyslexia.

Kindergarten through grade 5 instructional staff and coaches who are involved in the instruction of students, are now required to receive this professional development. All teachers, administrators and school counselors with an instructional certificate in grades 6-12 are also required to receive this professional development.

Lee Pesky Learning Center was approved to be one of the select organizations who can offer the dyslexia professional development. LPLC’s 15-hour course—“Understanding and Supporting Students with Dyslexia and Other Language-based Learning Challenges”—meets the requirements for the Idaho Literacy Achievement and Accountability Act and teacher recertification. Course participants will deepen their understanding of dyslexia, the science of reading, features of evidence-based literacy instruction, and various screeners and assessment tools.

Ensuring that educators receive training on the signs of dyslexia will help with early identification. According to LPLC’s Professional Development Director Nicole Hodges, “Evidence-based reading instruction is essential for all students and critically important for students with dyslexia. Our professional development course will strengthen educators’ delivery of effective reading instruction and use of research-based interventions for students with dyslexia.”

Currently, LPLC’s training course is being offered on November 5th and December 3rd with a limit of 30 seats (in person) and 90 seats (virtually). The online, self-paced course will be

available by the end of this calendar year. School districts interested in on-site professional development can reach out to LPLC.

In the words of Lee Pesky Learning Center's Executive Director, Dr. Lindy Crawford, "LPLC appreciates the State Department of Education and values our continued leadership role in the field of dyslexia."

Photo captions: Students in LPLC's Pathways to Literacy program work with tutors to improve their reading and writing skills.