



ARKANSAS DIVISION of YOUTH SERVICES

Dyslexia Information

2021-2022 School Year

The Division of Youth Services uses the Woodcock Johnson-4th and/or the Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT5) as tools to identify youth who may demonstrate characteristics of dyslexia. Students who score below 90 in spelling, along with one or more other areas in reading, are scheduled to receive additional testing. The Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing, also known and referred to as the CTOPP, is administered by a professional located at the AJATC campus where student intake processes and procedures take place and other assessments occur. Students who are ultimately identified as having dyslexia need explicit, systematic, direct instruction specifically designed to help improve reading fluency and comprehension.

Between August 1, 2021, and May 31, 2022, **168** students were tested using the Woodcock Johnson IV or the WRAT5, and some proceeded to the CTOPP assessment. Of the **168** tested, **94** students qualified for intervention services and were enrolled in a critical reading class. The critical reading classes are taught by highly qualified, certified, and licensed teachers who have specifically been trained to use the Sonday System by Winsor Learning. Sonday is a highly effective, multi-sensory method used to help struggling readers. The Sonday System helps students learn how to decode words, chunk words into syllables, and comprehend the meaning of sentences and passages. DYS/ROP teachers have been trained to utilize specialized instructional strategies to address dyslexia. Teachers have also participated in additional reading training through Arkansas IDEAS and the Science of Reading Instruction.

As always, it is the goal of DYS and ROP to provide a free and appropriate education for ALL students. We know that when a student learns to read, or improves their ability to read, many other areas of their lives also improve. Opportunities and experiences become available to them that otherwise might not have been possible without the ability to read, comprehend, and effectively communicate.