

Vote YES to Support *Early Screening for At-Risk Readers*

[SB 548](#): Sen. Joan Carter Conway, Hearing: Feb. 21 at 1:00pm in EHEA

[HB 910](#): Dels. Kaiser & Luedtke, Hearing Feb. 22, 1:00pm, W&M



What It Does

- Requires student screening for risks of reading difficulties in grades Pre-K – 1;
- Provides targeted instruction in foundational reading to students who are at risk for reading failure;
- Includes progress monitoring procedures and timelines, and increased intervention if needed;
- Informs parents about the screening process and their child’s performance;
- 21 states already have requirements for early reading screening -- [information on screening](#).

What It Does Not Do

- Diagnose “dyslexia” or specific reading disabilities. Students with reading difficulties including dyslexia will be identified much earlier with a screening protocol in place.
- Place more children in “special education.” Screening takes place in the general education classroom and supports student success in that setting;
- Take teachers/resources out of the classroom – screening is designed to be brief, targeted, and provide information teachers can use to target reading instruction for students;
- Add work to a teachers’ day: to the contrary, screening for reading difficulties and supplemental instruction is provided in most districts; this legislation requires existing resources be aligned with research on early identification of reading risks and effective, early instruction in reading.

What Can Your Legislator Do?

- Listen to your story/example of how early screening and intervention could have helped your child;
- Co-sponsor HB 910 and SB 548 and vote **YES** for improved early screening and intervention for reading difficulties.

Decoding Dyslexia Maryland advocates for the prevention of reading failure by identifying reading difficulties early and advocating for structured literacy, evidence based reading instruction for at-risk students before they fall behind.