



To: *Basic Language Skills* Practitioners, Therapists, Dyslexia Specialists, and Specialist Preparation Program Participants

Re: Recommendations for 2020-2021 Return to School Virtual Instruction of *Basic Language Skills* for Dyslexia Intervention

Date: August 7, 2020

As you prepare for a most unique fall semester, Neuhaus Education Center would like to make recommendations regarding virtual dyslexia intervention with *Basic Language Skills (BLS)*. Unlike the spring when school closures occurred without warning, now we are afforded some time to establish goals, plan, prepare, and provide students with appropriate instruction and materials. It is hoped instructors have time and district support to explore and select the technology that suits their comfort level and teaching style.

The tenets and delivery of instruction for students with dyslexia serviced under a 504 plan remain as stated in the 2018 edition of TEA publication *The Dyslexia Handbook* page 39, "Standard protocol dyslexia instruction must be explicit, systematic, and intentional in its approach.... evidence-based and effective for students with dyslexia; taught by an appropriately trained instructor; and taught with fidelity." Texas mandates are widely regarded as best instructional practices for students with dyslexia and align with accreditation standards outlined by national organizations that review preparation programs for dyslexia specialists.

Teachers of *BLS* can successfully implement virtual lessons that include interaction and feedback with dyslexic students. Thoughtful goal setting, long-term planning, and preparation of *BLS* lessons will ensure explicit, systematic instruction that includes the necessary instructional components. Attached is an action plan of suggested preparation and implementation steps. Students who attend virtual lessons should receive the same sequence of *BLS* instruction, delivered with the same intensity, using the same materials provided when attending class in-person.

Please note, a recording of a live lesson used to teach another student or groups of students does not comply with the principles of effective intervention for students with dyslexia outlined in *The Dyslexia Handbook* pages 41-42. Storing and/or distributing a recorded *BLS* lesson with the intent to teach others how to implement *Basic Language Skills* would require written permission from Neuhaus Education Center. A recorded lesson that is submitted to Neuhaus Education Center to fulfill requirements of the Neuhaus Preparation Program is permissible.

We know that these uncertain times have taken a toll on you and your students. We continue to be awed by your dedication and intense desire to provide your students with the tools and support they need now.

If you have questions or concerns, please send an email to info@neuhaus.org. Please use and share the new resources available at <https://www.neuhaus.org/StayAtHomeLearning>

Regards,

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