**Decision-Making Guide for Dyslexia Evaluation & Instructional Programming**

What is specially designed instruction (SDI) and what should we be looking at to inform those determinations?

**34 CFR §300.39 (b)(3)**

(3) Specially designed instruction means adapting, as appropriate to the needs of an eligible child under this part [IDEA], the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction—

(i) To address the unique needs of the child that result from the child’s disability; and

(ii) To ensure access of the child to the general curriculum, so that the child can meet the educational standards within the jurisdiction of the public agency that apply to all children.

**Comparing SPDI and SDI**

- **Standard Protocol Dyslexia Instruction (SPDI)**
  - Explicit, systematic, highly structured, intentional approach delivered with fidelity by a trained instructor
  - Evidence-based, multisensory structured literacy instruction designed for students with dyslexia
  - Delivered to a group of students with dyslexia in accordance with the way the program was designed
  - Includes differentiation that does not compromise the fidelity of the program

- **Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)**
  - Adapting the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to address the unique needs of the child
  - Must address the critical, evidence-based components, as appropriate in light of the student’s unique needs
  - Delivery of instruction is based on the unique needs of the child
  - More individualized or tailored program

**Additional Resources:**

- Progress in the General Curriculum (PGC) Network’s Specially Designed Instruction: A Resource for Teachers
- Dyslexia Handbook, 2018 Update
- ELAR TEKS Vertical Alignment Doc & SLAR TEKS Vertical Alignment Doc
- OSERS Letter Clarifying Definition of SDI
Based on this student’s individual needs, consider the following to determine if the level of intervention may be specially designed instruction and warrant evaluation under IDEA.

“A district or charter school must move straight to evaluation under Section 504 if they suspect a student has a disability or under IDEA if they suspect a disability and a corresponding need for special education services.” (Dyslexia Handbook, 2018 Update, page 23)