

SCS HCS HB 1614 -- BRYCE'S LAW

This bill adds dyslexia to the list of conditions that are considered qualifying needs for the purposes of Bryce's Law which requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a master list of resources available to the parents of children with an autism spectrum disorder and to actively seek financial resources for scholarships to eligible children to attend a qualified school or for a clinical trial for behavioral interventions. The bill adds an individual with national certification as an academic language therapist to the definition of "qualified service provider."

Beginning in school year 2016-2017, the Commissioner of Education within the department may adjust the allocation of the proportion of scholarships between autism and the other qualifying special needs using information based on unmet need and use patterns from the previous school years. The commissioner must notify the State Board of Education of any changes for its approval. A student with dyslexia may become eligible for a scholarship based on a medical or clinical diagnosis based on the C-TOPP assessment as an initial indicator of dyslexia and confirmed by further medical or clinical diagnosis.