

The North Carolina Branch of the International Dyslexia Association is committed to informing our stakeholders of evidence-based information necessary to make informed decisions related to dyslexia. We do not believe that implementing iStation, as a screening measure for dyslexia, meets the intent of HB149.

A primary risk factor for identifying students at risk of reading failure is phonological processing. Phonological awareness and phonemic awareness are oral language skills. iStation does not require oral production nor does it include other critical subskills e.g. phoneme identification, segmentation. In addition, iStation does not attend sufficiently to automaticity of skills. A critical risk factor, letter naming, is included in iStation. Although iStation addresses letter recognition, it does not require students to recall and name the letters.

We do not feel that iStation provides adequate information for informed decision-making. We believe that educators will need additional tools to effectively identify students at risk of dyslexia. The North Carolina Branch (NCIDA) is dedicated to assisting NCDPI and LEAs in identifying additional measures to ensure we meet the intent of HB149.

Sincerely,
NCIDA