

S 3121

21st Century Dyslexia Act

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Education

**Introduced:** Oct 25, 2023

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Oct 25, 2023)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3121>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** LA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

| Cosponsor                         | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO] | D · CO        |      | Oct 25, 2023 |

Committee Activity

| Committee                                        | Chamber | Activity    | Date         |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee | Senate  | Referred To | Oct 25, 2023 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Education

Related Bills

| Bill        | Relationship   | Last Action                                                                   |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 118 HR 6052 | Identical bill | Oct 25, 2023: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. |

## 21st Century Dyslexia Act

This bill addresses the education of children with disabilities, with a particular focus on children with dyslexia.

Currently, dyslexia is listed as one of the disabilities under the definition of *specific learning disability* in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This bill instead removes dyslexia from the definition of *specific learning disability* and establishes a stand-alone definition for *dyslexia* within the IDEA.

Specifically, the bill defines *dyslexia* for purposes of the IDEA as an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader, most commonly caused by a difficulty in the phonological processing (the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken language), which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, and spell.

Additionally, the bill requires a local educational agency or other agency, in determining eligibility for or providing an accommodation or service under the IDEA, to provide equal access to (1) children from low-income families, (2) children from families with low socioeconomic status, and (3) children who are limited English proficient.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Oct 25, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Oct 25, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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