

**EducationWeek**® WEBINAR

# Three Actionable Strategies to Overcome Common Dyslexia Screening Challenges

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# Effectively Identifying and Supporting Students at Risk for Dyslexia

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# Overview

- 1 The role and challenge of dyslexia screening**
- 2 How to assess without bias and at scale**
- 3 Actionable strategies for your school or district**

# Getting Started: Guiding Principles



**Equity**



**Inclusive**



**Urgency**



**Transparency**



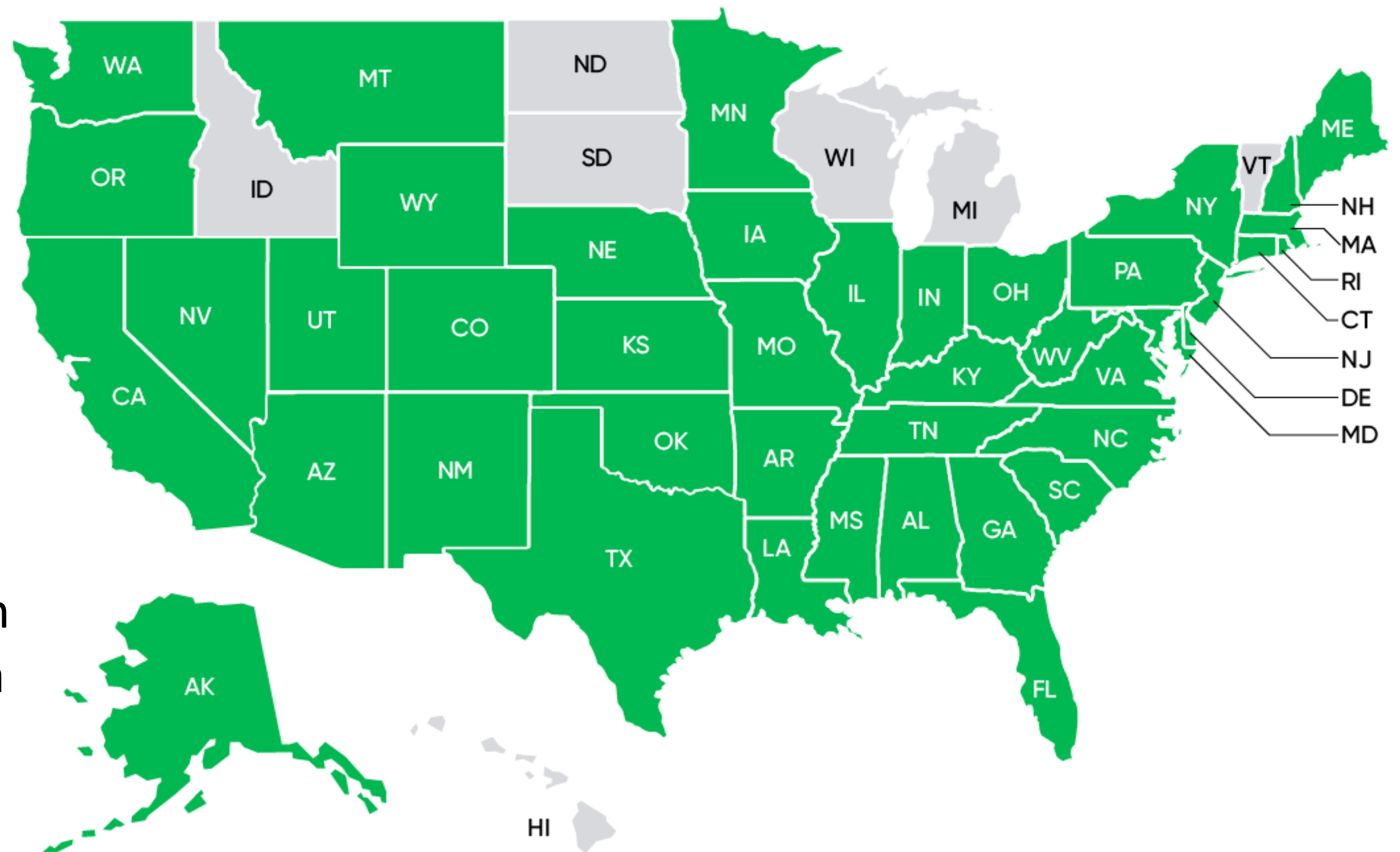
**Consistency**

# Legislative Mandates

## Dyslexia Laws in the US 2019

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Only 7 states along with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico do not have some legislation regarding dyslexia.



# Teaching ALL Children to Read



- ✓ The most important reason to conduct screenings is to identify students who are at risk for reading problems and require early intervention.
- ✓ It is estimated that 1 in 5 individuals have dyslexia or other significant reading problems.
- ✓ We can prevent reading failure with effective screening and quality instruction.

# Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

- ✓ Screening results can provide perspective on the needs of students in a class/school/district.
- ✓ Using a tiered approach highlights the need for intervention *and* extension.
- ✓ Differentiation for different areas of reading instruction can be supported with an MTSS approach.



# The Role of Screening

- ✓ Universal screening for dyslexia and other reading problems allows teachers to plan appropriate instructional strategies for each student to ensure growth from the first day.
- ✓ Screenings identify students who may need specialized instruction or additional time building foundational skills.
- ✓ Valid and reliable results alert the teacher to the potential need for further assessment.
- ✓ Actionable data ensures that students receive personalized targeted instruction.



# Challenges in Screening for Dyslexia

- ✓ Time consuming
- ✓ Lack of teacher training/knowledge
- ✓ Consistency in test administration and scoring
- ✓ Screener must be reliable and valid
- ✓ Essential components must be included in screener
- ✓ Preserving instructional time

# How to Assess Without Bias and at Scale

Effective screening occurs when students are all assessed in the same manner using tools that are free of bias.

## What are considerations for reading screening?

- ✓ Selection of screening tool
- ✓ Training/professional learning for teachers and administrators to understand the purpose for screening, implications of results for instruction and further assessment
- ✓ Screen universally, filter for further assessment

# Planning for Scale

- ✓ Available resources  
Personnel, time, format (paper or electronic)
- ✓ Student population  
District/school/class size
- ✓ Scheduling  
Assessment vs Instruction



# Where to Begin: Strategies for Your School or District

- ✓ Develop action plan for leadership, coaching and professional learning
- ✓ Use data and collaboration to establish priorities
- ✓ Develop plan to identify resources and strategies to address priorities
- ✓ Enlist stakeholder engagement

# Assessment

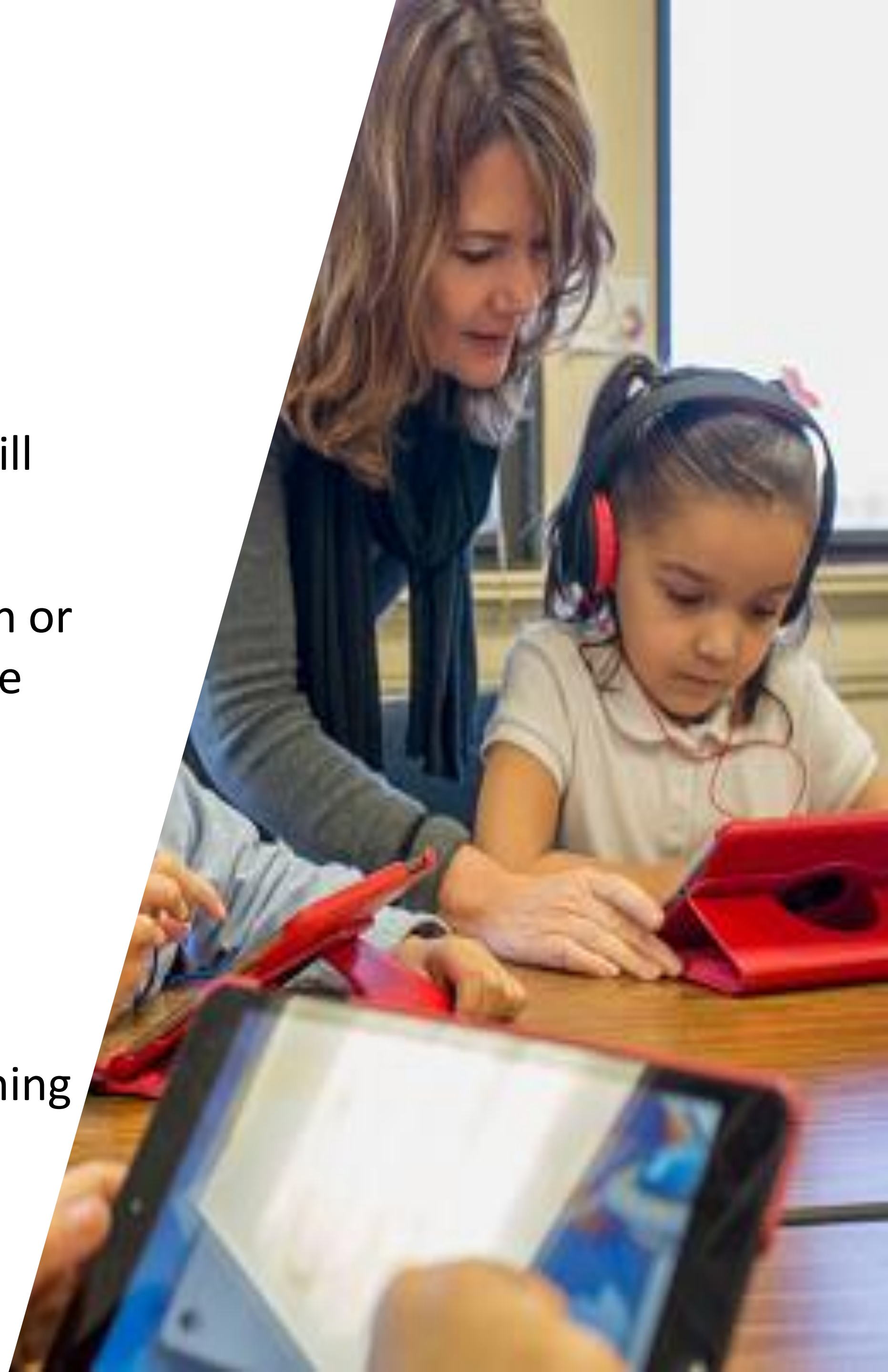
- ✓ Analyze student performance and proficiency data.
- ✓ Inventory current practices for screening and instruction.
- ✓ Identify gaps in instructional strategies and resources.
- ✓ Consider achievement and proficiency trends.
- ✓ Consider student outcomes using a tiered approach to learn or estimate potential need for *specialized instruction* (not the same as special education).
- ✓ Plan for verification of tier estimates with screening results.

# Instruction

- ✓ Screening data must be actionable.
- ✓ Instructional decisions are informed by ongoing progress monitoring.
- ✓ Ensure availability of core curriculum and supplemental interventions that can meet the needs of all students.
- ✓ Station rotation model allows all students to experience a personalized approach to learning.
- ✓ Explicit, teacher-directed instruction is key.
- ✓ Instructional design is not either/or for reading.
  - Phonics *and* traditional balanced literacy components are both important.

# Monitoring

- ✓ Consider how screening practices will be conducted for new students.
- ✓ Plan for development of observation or walk-through tools that demonstrate how instructional design/implementation reflects outcomes.
- ✓ Conduct regular observations, data talks, and reflection protocols to monitor fidelity of practice in screening and in instruction.
- ✓ Use multiple measures to monitor student outcomes.



Equitable access to appropriate assessment, quality instruction, and effective intervention for each student is a fundamental right. Effective screening is the first step.

“ I raise up my voice not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. We cannot succeed when half of us are held back.”

- Malala Yousafzai





A young girl with dark hair, wearing a red t-shirt and white headphones, is sitting at a desk in a classroom. She is looking at a laptop screen with a slight smile. The background shows a classroom with a bulletin board and a window with sunlight streaming in. The text "Questions & Discussion" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# Questions & Discussion