

» LAAC UPDATES – MARCH 2017

The LAAC provides periodic updates to inform members about recent advocacy efforts and to request input from members about their advocacy needs.

UPDATE: The International Dyslexia Association Fact Sheet

In 2016, The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) developed and disseminated a fact sheet that provided a wealth of information, including typical methods of assessment for dyslexia. The fact sheet noted that evaluation by a neuropsychologist may provide additional information for complicated cases but is not required to make a formal diagnosis, and there were no details outlining the training, qualifications, or expertise neuropsychologists have in assessing for specific learning disabilities. The language, as written, may have been misleading and confusing to readers and therefore the IOPC sent an [official comment letter](#) to Denise Douce, Director of Publications/Communications of the IDA, to clarify these points. The IDA responded to these concerns and made key changes to the fact sheet, such as including neuropsychologists among the list of qualified professionals and removing the comment regarding the non-essential nature of neuropsychological assessment. In addition, the IDA agreed to remove a hyperlink to the speech/language pathology webpage from the fact sheet to provide a more unbiased presentation of information/resources to patients seeking professionals for evaluation.

UPDATE: Texas Sunset License Board Review

Earlier this year, the Texas State Legislature Sunset Review Committee (SRC) concluded deliberations on the existence and operations of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (TSBEP). Despite significant efforts, including grassroots advocacy from the Texas Psychological Association and a [formal letter](#) from NAN, the Texas State Legislature will vote later this spring on the following SRC recommendations:

- Partially consolidate TSBEP with masters-level mental health professions to create the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, making psychologists the only doctoral-level profession in Texas to be governed by masters-level clinicians.
- Remove the requirement for postdoctoral training to obtain licensure
- Eliminate the oral exam component of the licensure process

Please stay tuned for future updates regarding this legislation.