

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, June 30, 2014 8:32:54 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Sunday, June 29, 2014 7:43 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Sunday, June 29, 2014 - 19:42

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Lisa

Last Name: McConkey

Title: Certified Academic Language Therapist

Organization you are affiliated with: ALTA

City: Keller

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: In order to work with dyslexic children, an educator should be a Certified Academic Language Therapist. I have earned my Bachelor's degree in Elementary/ Special Education, Master's degree in Elementary Education/Supervision, attained certification to teach Spalding, and after teaching for 23 years continued for three additional years to be trained in MTA before taking an assessment to attain my CALT license. All of my education has been on my own time outside of the school instructional day for my students. Over the last few years, some Texas school districts, have not been hiring therapists but training teachers during the school year. I know that I would not know how to meet my student's needs if I was learning as they learned. Without going through the complete therapist program, how does a teacher know how to complete testing, diagnose a child as dyslexic and then implement the appropriate therapy?

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Criteria should be maintained for an educator to receive their CALT license to ensure the consistency and effectiveness of our work. Therapists work hard to specialize in this field and it should remain mandatory for a therapist to renew their license each year. This certification took me years to obtain and I feel confident when I am working with a child. Please help our children feel confident that each time they go to therapy that the person sitting across from them has the appropriate qualifications and credentials.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree