

## South Bronx Literacy Academy (SBLA) Family Resource Guide

### South Bronx Literacy Academy

SBLA is a stand-alone school located in the Bronx specifically designed to serve students who have demonstrated challenges in learning to read and may be at risk for dyslexia and language-based learning difficulties. Aligned with recommendations from the International Dyslexia Association, SBLA will offer intensive classroom instruction in structured literacy - providing highly explicit, systematic and multi-sensory teaching of foundational skills and other important literacy components, including vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing. Additionally, SBLA will embed consistent and purposeful practices to support social emotional learning and executive functioning skill development to meet the needs of students with such language-based learning difficulties.

The school is a partnership between New York City Public Schools and the [Literacy Academy Collective](#), a non-profit organization founded by the parents of students with dyslexia.

### Enrollment

For the 2023-24 school year, SBLA will offer seats for 2nd and 3rd grade students. Every year thereafter, the school expects to expand by one grade until it reaches capacity as a 2nd–8th grade school.

Families of current 1st and 2nd graders are encouraged to apply for the 2023-24 school year. All students will undergo reading assessments to determine eligibility for admission into the school. The following students are encouraged to apply for admission to SBLA:

- Any current 1st or 2nd grade student who has demonstrated persistent struggles in making adequate reading progress; or
- Any current 1st or 2nd grade student with a formal dyslexia diagnosis on a Neuropsychological / Neuropsychoevaluational or Psychological / Psychoeducational evaluation

Both general education students and students with an individualized education program (IEP) are encouraged to apply.

### Instructional Model

SBLA is a literacy-based school dedicating at least 90-minutes per day of small group instruction to the teaching of foundational reading skills using Preventing Academic Failure (PAF), a structured literacy approach that is daily, systematic, explicit, and multi-sensory. Math is sequential and systematic as well, using consistent modeling to help students build conceptual understanding and number sense. Writing is taught through the content areas of Science and Social Studies. Oral language development and vocabulary instruction is embedded throughout the day. In addition to these school-wide language supports, SBLA will provide school-wide support for social-emotional learning (SEL) and executive functioning (EF), including explicitly teaching students skills, strategies, and common language around SEL and EF. These components are then thoughtfully incorporated throughout the school day.

All classrooms at SBLA are Integrated Co-Teaching classes for general education students and students with IEPs. Each classroom will have two full-time teachers (1 general education and 1 special education) and no more than 18 students. In addition, the school will provide on-site IEP-recommended related services, including speech and occupational therapy, and counseling.

### Admissions Process for the 2023-24 School Year

Step 1) Apply Now! Interested Families of current 1st & 2nd graders can apply in one of 3 ways:

- a) Online via [www.MySchools.nyc](http://www.MySchools.nyc)
- b) Going to a [Family Welcome Center](#)
- c) Calling 311

Step 2) Determining Eligibility for the Admissions Lottery

1. Students with a formal dyslexia diagnosis are automatically eligible for the lottery.
2. All other students will first be considered based on the Acadience Benchmark, and then, depending on their scores, may be invited for additional assessments.
  - a. Students who score at or less than the 16th percentile on the Acadience Benchmark will be invited for an additional assessment.
  - b. Students who score above the 16th percentile on the Acadience Benchmark will not initially be invited for additional assessments, but may be placed on a waiting list pending availability.
  - c. Students who are invited for additional assessment may meet with a school-based psychologist for an in-person, 1:1 assessment. Students will participate in testing around word decoding, pseudoword (non-sense) reading, and spelling to determine eligibility for the admissions lottery.

Step 3) Admissions Offers to SBLA for September 2023

All eligible applicants will be entered into the admissions lottery. Offer letters will be sent in June.

### Inquires:

To learn more about the South Bronx Literacy Academy, visit our [webpage](#) or reach out to the School Program Director, Bethany Poolman at [bpoolman@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:bpoolman@schools.nyc.gov).