

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-129

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 3, 2023

To recognize October as International Dyslexia Awareness Month, and to declare October 2023 as “Dyslexia Awareness Month” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, dyslexia is a language-based learning disability that refers to a cluster of symptoms, which result in people having difficulties with specific language skills, particularly reading;

WHEREAS, dyslexia affects approximately 20 percent of the population and represents nearly 90 percent of all those with learning disabilities. It is the most common of all neuro-cognitive disorders;

WHEREAS, dyslexia affects all segments of society, regardless of race, income, educational background or ability and is not an indication of a lack of intelligence or desire to learn. Dyslexia is not rare, and affects individuals throughout their lives; however, its impact can change at different stages in a person’s life;

WHEREAS, dyslexia occurs in people of all backgrounds and intellectual levels. People with dyslexia are often gifted in areas such as art, computer science, design, drama, electronics, mechanics, music, physics, sales, and sports; however, dyslexia also can be associated with other learning challenges in areas such as writing, spelling, mathematics, speech, language processing, executive function, fine motor skills, attention or mental health;

WHEREAS, literacy is a critical skill for educational success. Students who do not read at grade level by third grade are four times more likely not to graduate from high school;

WHEREAS, early detection and proper diagnosis, structured scientifically-based reading intervention supports, and the provision of necessary accommodations are critical to ensure school and life success for those with dyslexia;

WHEREAS, teachers and students across the District of Columbia benefit from increased educator professional training about dyslexia and scientifically-based teaching strategies designed to better identify and educate students with dyslexia;

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WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is committed to equity in educational opportunities through identifying obstacles to educational advancement and endeavoring to remove those obstacles;

WHEREAS, to that end, the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) started a dyslexia task force in January 2020;

WHEREAS, the Council also passed the *Addressing Dyslexia and Other Reading Difficulties Amendment Act of 2020* (D.C. Law 23-191) to require the Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE) to: (1) provide dyslexia awareness and other reading difficulties training to all educators; (2) provide educators with professional development on recognizing reading difficulties, screening for reading difficulties, and implementing instruction that meet the needs of students with reading difficulties; (3) compile a list of recommended screening instruments and protocols that LEAs may use to identify students who are at risk of reading difficulties; and (4) provide guidance on specialized, multi-tiered remediation and intervention instruction which is aligned to a science-based reading program; and

WHEREAS, Dyslexia Awareness Month is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the many achievements of children, adolescents, and adults with dyslexia, to foster awareness across the District of Columbia with the goal of empowering families and educators who are aiding students with dyslexia, and to continue to advocate for academic support in the District's public schools so students with dyslexia can achieve overall success.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "October is Dyslexia Awareness Month Recognition Resolution of 2023."

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors those working to provide education and treatment to individuals affected by dyslexia in the District of Columbia, recognizes the month of October as International Dyslexia Awareness Month, and declares October 2023 as "Dyslexia Awareness Month" in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.