

Dear Madam Chairperson,

I am a 4th grade teacher in ISD 196, and I wholeheartedly support dyslexia professional development for recertification. I support and welcome any training on dyslexia. Why? The answer is zero. My school district, the 5th largest in Minnesota, has offered zero training about dyslexia and how to teach these students.

I know I've had dyslexic students in my class. In the past, I've asked special education teachers at my school for help and they didn't offer any suggestions or strategies because they, themselves, hadn't had any training. I've taught at my current school in Eagan for over 20 years and learning about the needs of dyslexic students has never been addressed.

If at least 10% of the students in our schools (which equates to thousands and thousands of students) are dyslexic and learn differently, how have we gotten to 2019 in Minnesota, a state known for its high educational standards, with this group of students still being largely ignored?

Self-esteem and social-emotional development are tied to the struggles of dyslexic students. We have to care enough about this population of kids to require teachers in Minnesota be trained in dyslexia just as they've been trained in math, technology, equity, and classroom discipline.

Learning strategies to help students with dyslexia can help other students as well. Being a teacher for over 20 years, I welcome the new knowledge and ways of teaching. Growth mindset is what it's all about. We have to fight for the needs of ALL students and ALL learning styles!

It is time to right the wrong! Please do the right thing and pass this bill. I am a teacher, and I want the training that will better equip me to help dyslexic students. More important, it's what these kids deserve!

Sincerely,

Kari Johnson