Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota

DDMN is a nonprofit grassroots organization supported by Minnesota families, educators, and professionals concerned with the limited access to appropriate evidence-based interventions for students within educational environments.

2023 Legislative Session

The Minnesota Literacy/Dyslexia Coalition includes Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota, International Dyslexia Association, Upper Midwest Branch and The Reading Center. We are advocating for literacy improvements for all students by providing state funding for: teacher professional development in the science of reading, support to districts to change to literacy curriculum in line with the science of reading, and the hiring of literacy coaches to support educators in getting all students reading at grade level.

We support these bills in the 2023 session:
- HF629 / SF1273: Read Act
- HF2497 / SF2684: Governor Walz's BOLD Literacy Plan

Why The Read Act?

- Students across Minnesota are NOT learning to read at grade level. In 2022, our MCA reading scores showed that fewer than 50% of third graders were proficient in reading.
- Students of color across the state, have scores much lower than white students. Only 3 in 10 black students read proficiently by third grade.
- Reading scores have been this low for decades, and scores are exacerbated by COVID pandemic disruptions.
- Science indicates that 95% or more of students can be taught to read at grade level if they are taught in the approach consistent with the science of reading: explicit, sequential, multisensory approach in ALL five core areas of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension).

What is The Read Act?

Use $100 million of the state's historic budget surplus to invest in our teachers to provide evidence-based reading instruction in line with the science of reading to all Minnesota students:

- Fund teacher professional development in the science of reading. Permissible uses for this funding would include literacy training from programs approved by MDE.

- Help districts to retrain or hire literacy specialists to help teachers with the implementation of evidenced aligned reading instruction and data analysis.

- Help districts move away from balanced literacy curriculum in favor of curriculums approved by MDE that demonstrate they are aligned with the science of reading.

- Support districts in data collection and evaluation through MDE.

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