

MEDIA ALERT – Feb. 20, 2020

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National Center on
Improving Literacy

Literacy for All Equitable Practices for Reading & Dyslexia

WHO: National Center on Improving Literacy (NCIL), Decoding Dyslexia Maryland (DD-MD), WETA/Reading Rockets and Advocacy Day Community Partners

WHAT: Reading proficiency for students is a critical issue in Maryland. Preventing reading difficulties and providing help for students with reading difficulties is also a critical element of the “Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.” Early literacy and dyslexia experts from NCIL will explore best practices in literacy with local school districts, parents & advocates.

WHERE: Lowe House Office Building; 6 Bladen Street – Rooms 170 and 180 Annapolis, MD
WETA/Reading Rockets will livestream the 9 a.m. program on [facebook.com/DecodingDyslexiaMd/](https://www.facebook.com/DecodingDyslexiaMd/)

WHEN: Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 8am -2pm

WHY: Strong reading skills developed in early elementary school are a prerequisite for students to be college and career ready by the end of the 10th grade and a key goal of the “Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.” 2019 MCAP results show 42% of 4th graders and 43% of 10th graders were proficient on the English Language Arts test section.

Teaching students to read is the first job of our schools. Teachers, administrators and parents will explore how to identify students who may be at risk of reading struggles in pre-k and early elementary school. They will discuss best practices for teaching all students to read, including those who struggle and need additional interventions. This information will be helpful for school districts implementing Kindergarten reading screening in 2020-2021 and implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

SPEAKERS: Reading & dyslexia experts from NCIL will discuss best practices for reading screening and interventions as determined by decades of reading research. Program [click here](#) or visit <https://www.decodingdyslexiamd.org/events>.

STORY/CAMERA HIGHLIGHTS:

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| 9:00-10:15 am | Keynote: Equitable Practices for Reading & Dyslexia: Implementing Strong Screening, Instruction & Interventions by Sarah Sayko, NCIL Deputy Director |
| 9:30-9:45 am | House Majority Leader, Eric Luedtke to discuss HB 718, Reading & Dyslexia |
| 10:30-11:30 am | Breakout sessions 1) Reading Instruction and intervention to support equitable Literacy Development and 2) Growing a Reader: Student Focused Session |
| 12:45 – 2:00pm | Breakout sessions 1) Screening for Dyslexia & Reading Difficulties, and 2) Family and School Partnerships that Create Positive Student Outcomes |

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Decoding Dyslexia Maryland (DD-MD) is a grassroots organization that provides support and advocacy for effective reading and writing instruction in Maryland Public Schools.