



***Information for Your  
Day in Annapolis***

Decoding Dyslexia Maryland

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# WELCOME TO DYSLEXIA ADVOCACY DAY IN ANNAPOLIS!

We're glad you could join us for a day of networking and advocacy. Advocacy Day is when we connect face to face, with other Decoding Dyslexia members from across the state. It is a chance to make new friends and catch up with dear colleagues.

With your support, we reached our 2019 legislative goal with the passage of the Ready to Read Act. Please help us make 2020 the year where instructional equity is achieved across Maryland. Implementing the tenets of the Ready to Read Act with fidelity puts Maryland closer to a world class educational system.

This session, Decoding Dyslexia Maryland is supporting legislation for a Reading and Dyslexia Handbook to be developed by MSDE and a stakeholder group to assist school districts and families with questions about screening, instruction, and interventions for reading and dyslexia. Come share your story with your elected officials and let them know how valuable a Reading and Dyslexia Handbook will be for student success.

We are also excited to offer information sessions where parents, students, school district officials, and policy makers can learn about equitable practices for reading screening, instruction and interventions. The best practices sessions will be led by national experts and centered around a tiered system of supports to prevent reading difficulties and to support students who are at risk for reading difficulties and dyslexia. Students are welcomed and invited to participate in the day including a special youth advocacy session.

Due to your advocacy, Maryland's elected officials better understand and support educational and instructional equity, early interventions for reading, and fiscally prudent investments that prevent reading failure. If you are new to advocacy, or even an "old" hand, you will want to consult the ["7 Steps to Advocacy Handbook"](#) to help you understand DDMD's legislative policy positions and advocate for them with your elected officials. Decoding Dyslexia Maryland's volunteer leadership team appreciates that you've taken the time to advocate for the well-being of children with dyslexia, and the well-being of all Maryland children. Thank you!

Decoding Dyslexia Maryland, State Leadership Team

Karleen Spitulnik  
Laura Schultz  
Jeanne Saum  
Winifred Winston  
Pamela Guest  
Lisa Blottenberger

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## LOCATION

The event will be held in Rooms 170 & 180 of the Lowe House Office Building located at 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD. Enter through the doors shown in the picture. After passing through security, head to the right to find the rooms. All visitors must present photo identification to enter the building.



## PARKING

There are several parking options including the Gotts Court Garage, Whitmore Parking Garage, and Pinnacle Parking at the Navy Stadium. [Annapolis Parking.com](http://AnnapolisParking.com) has helpful tips for parking during the legislative session. Please consult the [Interactive Map](#) of the area showing the parking options and the route to the House Office Building.

## REGISTRATION AND FOOD

DDMD will have a registration table set up outside Rooms 170 & 180. Registration begins at 8 am. Please check-in at the table to receive your name badge and program materials. We kindly ask that you register in advance, but welcome anyone who would like to join us on the day of the event.

DDMD will provide a continental breakfast during the Community Partner Open House from 8:00-8:30 am. A lunch station will also be available from 11:30-12:30 for registered attendees. Please invite your legislators and staff to Cupcakes, Coffee & Conversation from 2:30-4:00 pm in rooms 170 & 180.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN

Your safety is the highest priority and we understand if you cannot attend due to weather or travel concerns. DDMD will host Advocacy Day no matter what happens with the weather – the state legislature typically does not close for snow or ice because there are only 90 days in the session and each day is critical. If weather delays cause late arrivals, we will adjust the program to accommodate the guest speakers. If you plan to stay in Annapolis the night before like the legislators, you will not be hampered by weather!

# EVENT DETAILS AND PROGRAM

Dyslexia Advocacy Day in Annapolis will offer sessions on best practices for reading screening, instruction and interventions presented by [the National Center on Improving Literacy \(NCIL\)](#). Sessions will be specially designed for educators and parents. Attendees can schedule meetings with legislators to advocate for education and mingle with policymakers over cupcakes & coffee.

Time	Topic	Location
8:00am	Community Partner Open House ~ Continental Breakfast & Registration. Explore the services, materials & supports from over 35+ organizations serving striving readers and students with dyslexia.	Room 170
8:30-9:00	Literacy for All, Winifred Winston, State Leader, Decoding Dyslexia MD	Room 180
9:00-10:15	<b>Keynote:</b> Equitable Practices for Reading & Dyslexia: Implementing Strong Screening, Instruction & Interventions for Reading, Sarah Sayko, Deputy Director, NCIL	Room 180
9:30-9:45	Reading, Dyslexia & Education, House Majority Leader, Eric Luedtke, Chair, Revenue Subcommittee, House Ways & Means Committee	Room 180
<b>10:30-11:30</b>	<b>Morning Sessions</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Screening for Dyslexia &amp; Reading Difficulties, Kelli Cummings, University of Maryland/NCIL, Scott Szczerbiak, Director of Special Education &amp; Cortney Dvorak, Supervisor of Instruction in Reading, St. Mary's County Public Schools (<b>Session for School District Personnel</b>)</li></ul>	<b>Room 431</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reading Instruction and Intervention to Support Equitable Literacy Development, NCIL, Jess Surles (Open Session)</li></ul>	<b>Room 180</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Student Advocacy Session, Lauren Stouten (Student session)</li></ul>	<b>Room 170</b>
<b>11:30-12:30</b>	<b>Lunch for Attendees</b>	<b>Room 170</b>

**12:45-  
2:00** Afternoon Sessions

- Screening for Dyslexia & Reading Difficulties, Kelli Cummings, University of Maryland/NCIL, Scott Szczerbiak, Director of Special Education & Cortney Dvorak, Supervisor of Instruction in Reading, St. Mary's County Public Schools (open session) Room 180
- Reading Instruction and Intervention to Support Equitable Literacy Development, National Center on Improving Literacy, Jess Surles (**Session for School District Personnel**) Room 431
- Family and School Partnerships that Create Positive Student Outcomes, Sarah Sayko, Deputy Director, NCIL (Open Session) Room 170

**2:30-  
4:00** Cupcakes, Coffee & Conversation Open House; 3:00 pm recognition ceremony to honor *Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam* with the Friend of Dyslexia Recognition Rooms 170 & 180

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

### Reading & Dyslexia Handbook Toolkit

- [Senate Bill 575: Hearing: March 3, 2020 at 1:00pm, EHE](#)
- [House Bill 718: Hearing: Feb. 19, 2020, 1:00pm, W&M](#)
- [Dyslexia Handbooks in the U.S.](#)
- [Handbook Talking Points](#)
- [2020 DDMD Legislative Priorities](#)
- [Legislators by County](#)

### Advocacy Day Conference Links

- [Registration Eventbrite](#)
- [Program and Schedule](#)
- [Session Descriptions](#)
- [Presenter Biographies](#)
- [Legislator Invite, Cupcakes & Conversation](#)
- [Website Event information](#)

# **MEETING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR**

## **MEETING LOCATION**

Prior to Advocacy Day confirm the location of your meeting with your [legislator](#). Be sure to note if you are meeting with a Delegate or a Senator. Delegate offices are in the Lowe House Office Building (where Advocacy Day activities take place). Senator offices are in the connected Miller and James Senate Office Buildings across Bladen Street. Use the [Interactive Map](#) to locate the building. You may also plan to meet your legislator at the Cupcakes and Conversation Open House.

## **LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS**

Familiarize yourself with the items in the DDMD folder which will be available to download on the [DDMD website](#) about one week before Advocacy Day. Attend the Advocacy Day sessions for information on advocacy and the contents of the bill as well as sessions on best practices. DDMD State and County Leaders will be available to speak with you, answer your questions, and direct you to appropriate resources.

## **DDMD FOLDER**

Take a DDMD folder with you to your legislator meeting and leave it with your legislator. During your conversations you may want to point out the various resources that can be used for future reference.

## **CONVERSATION AND SUPPORT FOR BILL**

Upon meeting your legislator, make the hometown connection. You are a voter and constituent living in his or her legislative district. Speak about why you are in Annapolis today and that you are asking for support of the [Reading and Dyslexia Handbook](#). Discuss the purpose and importance of the legislation. Answer any questions to the best of your ability. If you do not know an answer, refer the legislator to DDMD and offer to get back to him/her with the information.

## **THANK YOU**

Be sure to send a thank you note or email to your legislator as soon as possible. A thank you will give you a chance to make a point you forgot to mention or need to reemphasize. You can attach a photo to help your legislator remember you, our issues, and provide an easy way to contact you.

# SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

## PICTURES

Take pictures with your students, fellow county advocates, and legislators. Share your pictures on social media using the event hashtags listed below.

## TWITTER

Locate the Twitter handles of your legislators prior to Advocacy Day. Follow and tag your legislators when you post about the bill and dyslexia. Tag Decoding Dyslexia Maryland @dyslexiasomd when you post.

## EVENT HASHTAGS

As you tweet, use the following hashtags throughout the day.

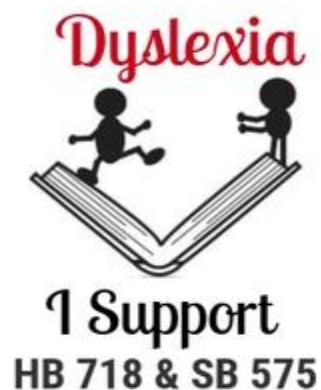
#Literacyforall #SoAllCanREAD #addressdyslexia #allboatsrise #ready2READ

## FACEBOOK

Follow and Like your legislators on Facebook. Join DDMD and your local chapter pages.

## FACEBOOK GRAPHICS

Right click and download the graphic to use on your personal and DDMD Facebook pages.



Follow DDMD on Facebook and Twitter for Advocacy Day Updates.

Information will also be posted on [www.decodingdyslexia.org](http://www.decodingdyslexia.org)

# ABOUT DECODING DYSLEXIA MARYLAND

## BRIEF HISTORY

Decoding Dyslexia Maryland (DDMD) is an unincorporated, grassroots network of parents, students and educators. Founded in 2012 by Laura Schultz and Lisa Blottenberger, DDMD has grown to over 1000 members and 15 regional and local chapters. The group is parent-led and includes students, teachers and community partners who support DDMD's student centered mission and goals. Many members and leaders are parents of students with dyslexia who want to ensure access to effective reading instruction and interventions for all children who have difficulty learning to read.

## POLICY GOALS

Decoding Dyslexia Maryland supports universal reading screening to support early literacy and provide an early warning system to prevent reading failure. DDMD also supports effective, evidence-based reading instruction and interventions, evidence-based, structured literacy reading instruction for students with dyslexia and other reading disabilities. Learn more about DDMD's [policy goals on our website.](#)

## LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

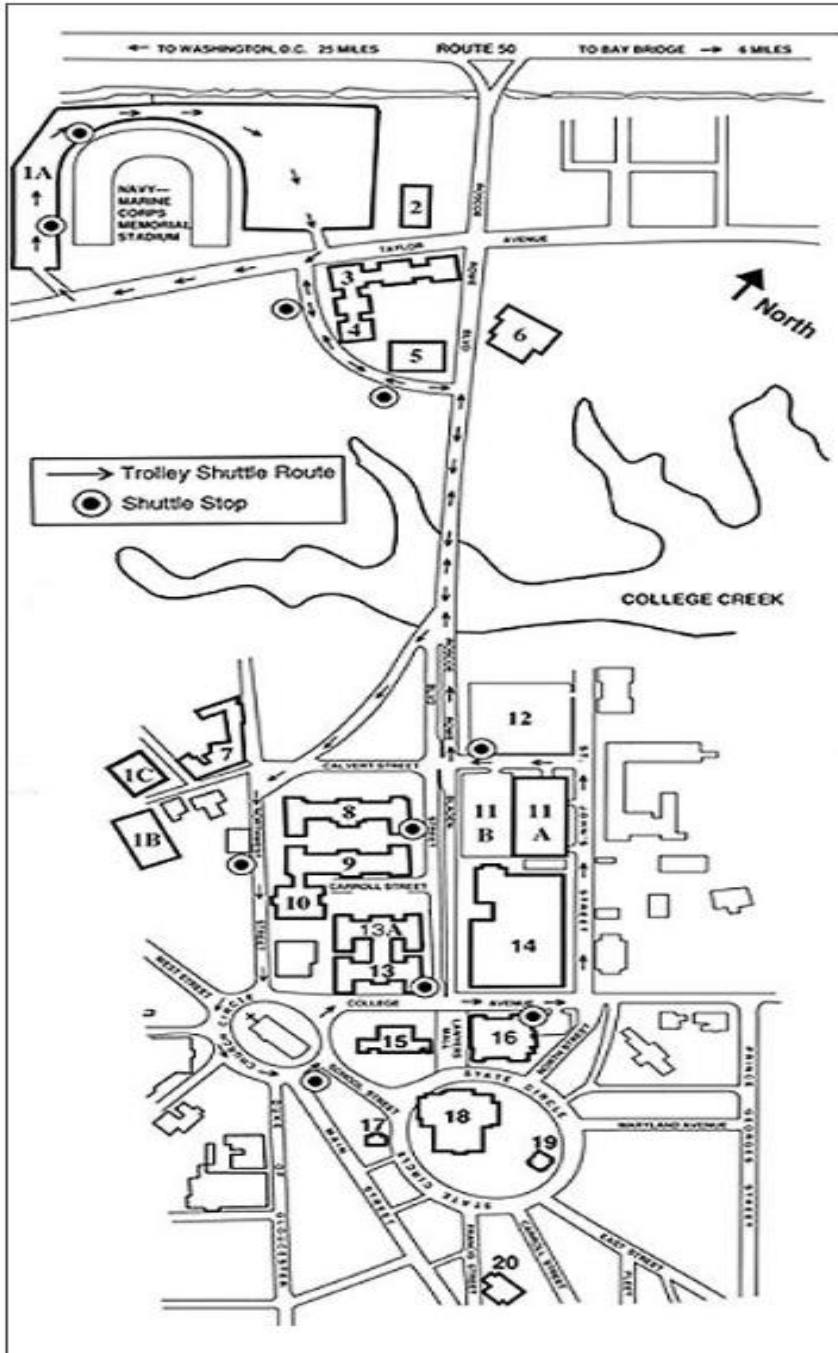
Decoding Dyslexia Maryland has a network of State Leaders who volunteer their time to work on issues that impact students with reading difficulties like dyslexia in Maryland public schools, statewide. State leaders work closely with local leadership teams on the ground in 15 school districts and regions across Maryland to raise issues and find solutions within local districts. Local chapters often host general meetings, organize special events, and establish relationships with local school district leaders and elected officials. The website has a listing of the local leaders and how to reach them. Most have a Facebook page.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

We invite you to join DDMD by providing your contact information at [www.decodingdyslexiamd.org/join.htm](http://www.decodingdyslexiamd.org/join.htm). Please follow us on social media using Facebook [www.facebook.com/DecodingDyslexiaMd/](https://www.facebook.com/DecodingDyslexiaMd/) and Twitter [@dyslexiasomd](https://twitter.com/dyslexiasomd).



**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Map**



**1. Public Parking**

1A. Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium.

*Trolley Shuttle Bus.* \$2.00. Runs from Stadium Parking Lot to downtown Annapolis Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m., every 10 minutes (more frequently at rush hour),

Public parking also available off Calvert St.:

- Gott's Court Garage (1B)
- Whitmore Garage (1C)
- Calvert St. Garage (12)

12. Calvert Street Garage

13. James Senate Office Building

Senators' offices

13A. Miller Senate Office Building

Committee offices & hearing rooms

14. Lowe & Taylor House of Delegates Office Buildings

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: WEBSITES

Annapolis Area

<https://www.visitannapolis.org/>

<https://www.annapolis.com/>

<https://annapolisparking.com/>

Maryland Government

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/>

<http://dls.maryland.gov/>

<http://www.maryland.gov>



## Dyslexia Advocacy Day 2020

# ~ THANK YOU COMMUNITY PARTNERS ~

- Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center (ASDEC)
- Baltimore Lab School
- bowman educational services, Inc.
- Cardinal Reading Strategies, LLC
- Chelsea School
- Creative Learning Experiences
- D.C. Capital Area Branch, International Dyslexia Association (DCIDA)
- Forward Thinking Assessment, LLC
- Educational Learning and Training, LLC
- Glenwood Academy
- Guiding Exceptional Parents
- International Dyslexia Association, Maryland Branch (IDAMD)
- Janice C. C. Lepore, Psy.D. and Associates, LLC
- Jemicy School
- Law for Parents
- Law Offices of Mark B. Martin, PA
- Lindamood-Bell
- Multisensory Math
- NeuroBehavioral Associates
- OgStar Reading



## Dyslexia Advocacy Day 2020

# ~ THANK YOU COMMUNITY PARTNERS ~

- Radcliffe Creek School
- Readventures, LLC
- SPIRE/School Specialty
- The Attention Fix Educational Consulting, LLC
- The Highlands School
- The Lab School
- The Law Offices of Nicole Joseph
- The Learning Curve
- The Legacy School
- The Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF)
- The Odyssey School
- The Siena School
- The Summit School
- Weinfeld Education Group
- Wendy Scarff, Educational Consultant
- Wilson Language Training
- Wye River Upper School