

# Decoding Dyslexia Maryland



## Our Mission

- To raise **awareness** about reading science and dyslexia;
- To **empower** parents and educators to support struggling readers and students with dyslexia;
- To **advocate** for best practices to support struggling readers and students with dyslexia.

## Legislative Policy Priorities 2020

- Reading and Dyslexia Handbook Legislation: SB 575 and HB 718 are sponsored by Senator Hester & Delegate Luedtke, respectively DDMD supports the 2017 recommendation by the Maryland Dyslexia Task Force to create a Dyslexia Handbook to support parents, students and local school systems.
- Implementation of the Ready to Read Act of 2019. DDMD supports implementation of the Ready to Read Act to screen all students in Kindergarten for risks of reading difficulties including dyslexia. DDMD requests to be part of the stakeholder group that MSDE must consult with “on or before June 2020” to develop and update resources for use by local school systems and to be accessible to all. (Source: Ready to Read Act, 2019)
- Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, Funding & Accountability, SB1000 and HB1300. DDMD supports the Kirwan Commission’s recommendations including the accountability and oversight measures to ensure instruction improves student outcomes for reading. Curriculum, instruction, professional learning, and assessments that are aligned to the science of reading will help close academic gaps for all students. See our coalition partner’s website for information on the science of reading: [The Reading League, Advancing Evidence in Practice](#)

## About Us

[Decoding Dyslexia Maryland \(DDMD\)](#) is a grassroots network of parents, students and educators who advocate for best practices for *reading and dyslexia* in Maryland Public Schools. DDMD has 15 local and regional chapters and a volunteer leadership team that concentrates on state issues that impact students with reading difficulties like dyslexia.