

What It Does

- Creates a stakeholder advisory group of educators & dyslexia community members to collaborate on a Reading & Dyslexia Handbook.
- Provides guidance for general & special educators, and families on best practices to identify & remediate students with dyslexia and reading difficulties.
- Develops a definitive, publicly available resource for educators and families on reading and writing assessment, instruction, intervention and accommodations for use in the classroom and in the home;
- Designates a dyslexia point of contact within the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE); and
- Enumerates evidence-based instruction, interventions, professional learning components and assessment/screening components and tools.



Why a Reading & Dyslexia Handbook?

- In 2017, the [Maryland Dyslexia Task Force](#) recommend development of a Dyslexia Handbook “to provide schools and communities with consistent best practices for dyslexia and reading” (p. 52-53).
- A Reading & Dyslexia Handbook was originally included in the 2019 screening & intervention legislation ([Ready to Read Act, Ch. 512](#)) as a cost-effective way to address reading difficulties and dyslexia with consistency across Maryland’s 25 school districts. [SB 575 & HB 718](#) both include similar language and simply amend Ch. 512 to include this critical resource.
- The screening law directs MSDE to consult with parents, teachers and other interested stakeholders on or before June 1, 2020 to develop and update resources for local school systems. The Handbook would be an excellent resource for districts as they implement screening and interventions in the 2020-2021 school year.
- 23 states ([AR, CA, MO, NJ, OK, RI, TN, and TX](#)) have handbooks or guidebooks to develop, sustain and promote best practices for literacy development and dyslexia remediation & to improve student outcomes in reading and writing.
- **Build an Early Warning System.** DDMD supports passing the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future when it includes oversight and accountability measures. The Handbook would provide school districts a roadmap to improve early literacy instruction and dyslexia interventions and would create support materials to guide implementation of the Ready to Read Act.

Our Ask

- Please join as a cosponsor of House Bill 718 or Senate Bill 575; and
- Please support the bills in committee and/or during the floor vote.