



Dyslexia Advocacy Day in Annapolis, 2015

Dear Dyslexia Supporter,

Please join Decoding Dyslexia Maryland in Annapolis on **Wednesday, March 18**, for [Dyslexia Advocacy Day in Annapolis](#). Participation in the event is free—we would like to bring as many folks to Annapolis to educate legislators about reading and dyslexia as possible.

Dyslexia Advocacy Day is targeted to families, educators and friends affected by dyslexia. Plans include a meet and greet, a one-hour legislative briefing on dyslexia and why it should matter to state legislators, along with information and handouts on how to speak with legislators. Attendees will, in advance, schedule meetings with their district State Delegates and Senators to talk about dyslexia and [DD-MD talking points will be available](#).

DD-MD would like your organization to join as a [Dyslexia Day Community Partner](#). We invite you to demonstrate your support of this rapidly growing movement in Maryland. You can provide a display, distribute literature and designate a representative from your organization to answer questions about your group and its support for students who struggle with reading and learning. Participants will use the room as a hub throughout the day and partners are welcome to set up display tables.

If you choose, your organization can sponsor an **in-kind donation of food, beverages, media help, publicity, and/or photocopying & printing**. In return for your in-kind donation/sponsorship, DD-MD will proudly display your organization's logos on event materials and legislator handouts. **There is no charge to participate**. If you would like to provide an in-kind donation, you can click this link to [REGISTER](#) and/or contact Laura Schultz at 703-477-4847. All Partners, whether you sponsor an in-kind donation or participate as an exhibitor, should register.

Where: Room 145, Lowe House Office Building, Baltimore City Delegation Room

When: Wednesday, March 18, from 9:00am-1:00pm (set up at 8:30)

Contact: [Laura Schultz](#), Decoding Dyslexia MD, 703-477-4847

Schedule

9:00-9:30 Meet & Greet

9:30-10:30 Short Program on DD-MD, Legislative Meetings, Packet Review

10:30-1:00pm: Room is used as home base; families will be in and out

Food will be served as long as sponsors are found to provide refreshments. We would like to have bagel and fruit trays, coffee, etc. The room is fairly large, with a center area for business displays including tables/easels and literature. All participants must provide their own table/chair. The tabletops available are committee desks/dais only. Please contact me for more information on the room size/space or for photos.



Why Dyslexia Advocacy Day

Maryland Dyslexia Advocacy Day is an opportunity for families across Maryland to come together and speak with one voice. Our collective message is very powerful. Please join Decoding Dyslexia MD as a **Community Partner** for this event. **DD-MD's short-term goal** for Dyslexia Advocacy Day is to lay the foundation for legislative support of our long-term legislative goals for 2016 (see below). Legislative change to support students with dyslexia will come earlier and with fewer unintended consequences if parents, students and professionals educate legislators about dyslexia: what it is and how profoundly it affects families and students in the public system and why legislators should care.

DD-MD's long-term advocacy goals include legislative approaches for early screening and interventions for dyslexia; in-service dyslexia education for teachers; higher education dyslexia curriculum for pre-service teachers; and appropriate accommodations for all students who struggle to read.

Pending Legislation on Dyslexia and Reading

There are 3 bills pending in the legislature: House Bill [278](#) and Senate Bill [15](#) to establish a Task Force to Study Dyslexia Education Programs in Maryland public schools and HB 763 by Del. Cullison (D-Montgomery) would establish a Task Force to study **[Effectiveness of Teacher Education Programs in the Instruction of Reading](#)**. We support these bills and want to ensure that members of the dyslexia community and educators with knowledge and practice in the foundations of reading, be included on the Task Forces.

About Decoding Dyslexia MD

Decoding Dyslexia MD is an all volunteer, parent network. We do not charge dues or raise money and we work collaboratively on behalf of all students and families with language learning differences like dyslexia, in Maryland. [Decoding Dyslexia MD](#) is part of a national, grassroots movement in [50 states](#) that advocates for students with dyslexia and reading struggles.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you in Annapolis on behalf of students with dyslexia. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Laura Schultz
Decoding Dyslexia MD
703-477-4847