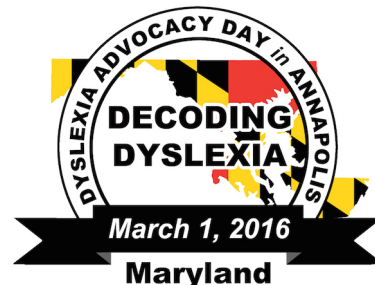


# MEDIA ALERT – March 1st

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## **60% of Maryland Students Do Not Read On Grade Level; Reading Experts Convene in Annapolis with Goal to Change Literacy Outcomes**

- WHO:** Decoding Dyslexia Maryland (DD-MD) and Community Partners
- WHAT:** Literacy Experts, State Education Leaders, Dyslexia and Literacy Advocates, Parents and Students lay the groundwork to close the Reading Gap in Maryland
- WHERE:** Lowe House Office Building; 6 Bladen Street – Room 170, Annapolis, MD
- WHEN:** Tuesday, March 1, 2016 8am-11 AM
- WHY:** Dyslexia and other language based learning differences affect up to 20% (1 in 5 students) in EVERY Maryland Classroom. Research shows that with a “Structured Literacy” approach to reading instruction, 95% of struggling readers will learn to read effectively. However, Maryland’s classrooms do not **OFTEN** employ this approach and too many children are falling through the cracks.
- SPEAKERS:** ~~Speakers to Include~~ Representatives from Decoding Dyslexia Maryland, Maryland State Legislature, Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland State Education Association, Center for Effective Reading Instruction and the Dyslexia Education Task Force. Full program here: <http://decodingdyslexiamd.weebly.com/events>

### **STORY/CAMERA HIGHLIGHTS:**

- 9:20-9:25 am: **Student Dyslexia Poem:** Mia Hembling, Baltimore County 7<sup>th</sup> Grader, shares her dyslexia experience ~~experience before receiving a structured literacy teaching approach and after~~
- Time TBD: **My Dyslexia Story:** Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, District 44, [Baltimore City](#) & [Baltimore County](#), Member Education, Health & Education
- All morning: **Interview Opportunities** with parents and students advocating to obtain/receive proper reading instruction in Maryland’s public schools

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*Decoding Dyslexia Maryland (DD-MD) is a grassroots movement of parents, students, teachers and related professionals concerned with the limited access to educational interventions for dyslexia and other language-based learning disabilities within Maryland’s public schools. More Info: <http://decodingdyslexiamd.weebly.com/> #SayDyslexia #CloseTheGapMD*