



Virginia PTA Resolution on Dyslexia

Does your bright child have difficulty reading or sounding out words? Is spelling or memorizing words even more challenging than reading them? How about their handwriting? Is it messy and nearly illegible? You might also notice a huge difference between your child's ability to tell you something and their ability to write it down. If so, your child might be dyslexic... it's much more common than you might think and affects approximately 20% or at least "1 out of every 5" individuals in the United States.

Dyslexia is an inherited language processing condition, neurologically based, that makes it difficult for children of average to above average intelligence learn to read, write and spell in their native language. Research indicates that dyslexia, a specific learning disability, is the most common and prevalent of all known learning disabilities. It affects as many boys as girls and is the leading cause of reading failure and school dropouts in our nation. Fortunately, dyslexia is identifiable in children as young as 5 ½ and when properly remediated and supported, these children have excellent outcomes.

At the 2015 Virginia PTA Annual Conference, our membership unanimously passed a "dyslexia resolution." This resolution recognizes that dyslexia has significant educational implications requiring teacher/staff training on dyslexia, its warning signs and appropriate interventions as well as the use of an early screening test for dyslexia to include parental notification. Virginia PTA supports the use of evidence-based remediation programs, implemented with fidelity, which can be assessed by both the general and special education populations to include access to appropriate assistive technologies in the public school settings for students with dyslexia.

For more information on the warning signs of dyslexia, please contact Hunt District PTA Member, Lorraine Hightower at hightower.lorraine@gmail.com.

