

DYSLEXIA DISCUSSION GUIDE 2019

(Discussion Guide created by Minnesota Academy of Reading)

Sign up to host or join a Discussion Group at the HELP website <https://helpliteracymn.org/> activities. For questions, contact Eva Boehm, boeh0056@umn.edu.

BEFORE THE FIRST DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING: Ask the participants to read the following documents-

1. MN Legislative Document- "Article 3: Teachers"
2. MN Legislative Document- "Article 2: Education Excellence"
3. International Dyslexia Association "Just the Facts: Dyslexia Basics"

DURING THE FIRST DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING:

1. Use the following menu of questions or create questions of your own. Select the questions that are the most relevant to your group. You are not required to discuss all the questions provided. **PLEASE NOTE:** If your group would like to meet more than 2 times, please feel free to do so!
2. The goal of the Discussion Group is to stimulate conversation about the **application** of research to teacher preparation, professional learning, assessment, and reading instruction.
3. This should be a discussion, not a lecture (i.e. the group members should talk more than the leader)!
4. If the group members do not know each other, plan a brief introduction activity for your first meeting.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SESSION 1:

1. What are your previous experiences with students who struggle with reading? What do you already know about dyslexia?
2. Based on the Minnesota legislative documents (i.e. Articles 2 & 3), what impact does the requirement for screening, reporting, and identifying students with characteristics of dyslexia have on you in your role? What is already being done? If you are a teacher educator, what impact does the legislation have on your teacher preparation program? What is already being done?
3. What are some additional steps that may need to be taken to fulfill the requirements of the legislation?
4. What were some things that surprised you as you read the International Dyslexia Association document "Just the Facts: Dyslexia Basics"?
5. What questions do you still have about reading difficulties and dyslexia?

On Wednesday, September 25, from 4-5 p.m., **Dr. Amy Schulting, the Minnesota Department of Education Dyslexia Specialist**, will respond to your questions.

Please go to the HELP website and **post your questions there:** <https://helpliteracymn.org/> activities.

BEFORE SESSION 2: Ask participants to read "Navigating the School System When a Child is Struggling with Reading or Dyslexia: Frequently Asked Questions"

DISCUSSION QUESTION FOR SESSION 2:

1. Page 1 of the document explains some of the terms that teachers and parents may encounter when trying to support students who struggle to read. Why is it important to clarify the various terms used by different specialists or organizations?
2. Pages 3-9 give examples of behaviors you might see or hear and actions you might take. Look across the grade levels and identify common patterns in behaviors and accommodations.
3. Pages 32-35 present criteria for evaluating effective interventions and reading instruction. Discuss the components. Do you agree or disagree with the criteria? Why? What might be missing from the lists?
4. Based on the research and recommendations in this resource, what are some of the implications for changes within current literacy instruction, school-wide systems of assessment, and interventions? What are the implications for systems reform?
5. What are the implications for future professional learning for both in-service and pre-service teachers?
6. What questions do you still have about reading difficulties and dyslexia?

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Be sure to check the website for further information about the webinar.

Thanks for your participation!