**Sample Letter: When district personnel Say “We don’t recognize Dyslexia” and Requesting an IEP Meeting to discuss the “new” diagnosis of Dyslexia**

Dear Director of Special Education/ Principal:

We are writing to formally request an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting for our son/daughter, **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, who is currently in \_\_\_\_\_\_ grade student at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ school. As you are aware, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has an active IEP to address his/her primary learning disability and secondary health impairment. Recently, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ underwent a comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation at **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** which resulted in a diagnosis of **Dyslexia**.

On \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I had an opportunity to meet with you at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_school. When I mentioned that we would need to convene an IEP meeting to discuss \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ‘s Specific Learning Disability, Dyslexia, you state unequivocally "Just so you know, LCSD1 doesn't recognize dyslexia as a learning disability and only students that test under 20% are eligible for extended school year."

Under federal law, specifically the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**, dyslexia is explicitly recognized as a **specific learning disability (SLD)**. Schools are required to provide appropriate services for students with dyslexia if it significantly impacts their learning. Additionally, eligibility for **Extended School Year (ESY) services** are based on a variety of nine factors, not just a test score threshold, or soley on the regression and recoupment factor.

As Dyslexia is a specific learning disability, we are requesting that we convene an IEP meeting to review \_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s current educational plan and discuss how we can best address his/her needs in light of this diagnosis. The evaluation and diagnosis from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ provide significant evidence that his/her learning needs should be reflected in his/her IEP and appropriate accommodations or services provided.

We are aware that some school districts may have policies regarding the recognition of specific learning disabilities and eligibility for extended services. However, according to the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** and **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act**, Dyslexia is recognized as a specific learning disability and eligible for services under special education law. We respectfully ask that the team consider this new information and convene a meeting to ensure that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ IEP reflects his/her current needs and provides appropriate accommodations and evidence-based instruction addressing his/her dyslexia.

Please contact us at your earliest convenience to schedule the IEP meeting. We are available on our cell \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Alternatively, we can be reached via email at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We would appreciate it if the meeting could take place within a reasonable amount of time, no more than 30 days.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working together to ensure \_\_\_\_\_ receives the support he/she needs to succeed in his/her education.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_