# Why Standardized Tests Cannot Deny Dyslexia Progress

Parents: If your child has dyslexia, schools may try to use standardized test scores to say your child isn’t making enough progress. Here’s what you need to know:

## 1. Standardized Tests Don’t Show the Whole Picture

- These tests are often timed and focus on reading speed.
- Children with dyslexia may always score lower on speeded tests—even if they are learning to read well.
- A low test score does not mean your child isn’t making real progress.

## 2. Wilson Program Progress = Real Growth

- The Wilson Reading System has 12 steps. Reaching Step 10 means your child has mastered advanced skills.
- Wilson has built-in progress checks that show clear, measurable growth.
- This data is strong evidence your child is learning, even if the standardized test says otherwise.

## 3. The Law is On Your Side

- IDEA requires schools to use multiple measures, not just one test (20 U.S.C. §1414; 34 C.F.R. §300.304).
- Schools cannot rely only on standardized tests to deny or reduce services.
- Courts have ruled that progress must be measured by more than test scores.

## 4. Key Takeaway for Parents

Don’t let the district dismiss your child’s success just because of a test score. Use Wilson progress data, lesson mastery, and teacher reports to prove your child is learning and deserves continued evidence-based instruction.

**REMEMBER**

* Timed, speed-based tests underestimate dyslexic students.
* IDEA requires multiple measures (20 U.S.C. §1414; 34 C.F.R. §300.304)
* Wilson/OG mastery checks, lesson completion, and teacher reports are valid data.
* Reliance on a single standardized test violates IDEA and ignores body-of-evidence progress.
* Standardized tests don’t tell the whole story. Wilson progress proves your child is gaining the skills to read!