

■ Dyslexia Statistics: A Crisis of Neglect

The intersection of dyslexia with suicide, Medicaid dependence, high school dropout rates, and incarceration reveals a stark pattern of systemic failure. While dyslexia is often underdiagnosed, research shows clear, high-risk pathways when educational and support systems fail.

■ High School Dropout Rates

- 35% of students with learning disabilities (including dyslexia) drop out of high school, compared to 6% of all students. — National Center for Learning Disabilities (2017)
- Many students remain undiagnosed, mischaracterized as lazy or disruptive, and disengage from school.

■ Mental Health & Suicide

- Students with dyslexia are 2–3x more likely to experience depression and anxiety.
- Those with reading difficulties are 3x more likely to consider or attempt suicide.
- Individuals with specific learning disorders (including dyslexia) are 46% more likely to have attempted suicide. — American Psychological Association
- 46% of adolescents with learning disabilities considered suicide; 19% attempted it. — Margalit, 2009
- Bullying linked to reading struggles is a significant risk factor for suicidal ideation.

■ Incarceration & the Prison Pipeline

- 30–50% of incarcerated individuals have dyslexia or a related learning disability. — Prison Reform Trust, 2016; U.K. Ministry of Justice
- 85% of juveniles in the justice system are functionally illiterate — often due to undiagnosed dyslexia.
- Students with disabilities are twice as likely to be suspended, expelled, or arrested.

■ Medicaid & Economic Hardship

- Individuals with learning disabilities, including dyslexia, are more likely to live in poverty and depend on Medicaid. — U.S. Department of Education longitudinal studies
- Poor literacy is a strong predictor of lifelong unemployment and underemployment, often leading to dependency on social services.



High School Dropout Incarcerated Adults Dyslexic Youth in Justice System Illiterate LD Students Consider Suicide

■ Literacy is a Life-or-Death Issue

Early intervention in dyslexia saves futures—and lives.