



# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENCE GUIDE

**TITLE:** Dyslexia Awareness Experiences for Schools During the Month of October

**NUMBER:** REF-077102

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Reference Guide is to provide information about dyslexia awareness experiences during the Los Angeles Unified School District (L.A. Unified) annual recognition of *National Dyslexia Awareness Month* in October.

**BACKGROUND:** Dyslexia is a language-based disability that exists on a continuum and is characterized by difficulties in learning how to read fluently. Students with dyslexia can also experience difficulties with oral language, spelling, writing skills, and math computation. It is estimated that dyslexia affects as many as one in five individuals.

In 2002, The International Dyslexia Association declared October National Dyslexia Awareness Month. The U.S. Senate passed a resolution declaring the same in 2015. The Board of Education of L.A. Unified first passed a resolution recognizing October as Dyslexia Awareness month in 2016.

Raising awareness of dyslexia helps to dispel myths about dyslexia and ensure that students with dyslexia receive the services and supports they need to learn. It is important for students to know that while dyslexia makes reading a challenge, students with dyslexia are intelligent and capable of achieving great success.

For information on the characteristics of dyslexia, assessments to determine eligibility for special education services, and a layered continuum of support for students with or suspected of having dyslexia within the General Education Program, see [BUL-045788.0: Identification and Educational Support of Students with Characteristics of Dyslexia](#), dated February 6, 2018.

**ROUTING**

Local District Superintendents  
Administrators of Instruction  
Special Education Administrators  
Directors  
Principals  
Assistant Principals/APEIS  
School Site Coordinators  
Teachers



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**INSTRUCTIONS:** Schools are encouraged to engage in activities during the month of October to raise awareness of dyslexia. Information for both parents and schools may be found on the L.A. Unified Dyslexia Awareness web page:  
<https://achieve.lausd.net/dyslexia>.

Below are some suggested activities for your school to help raise awareness:

- Encourage everyone in the school community to wear silver ribbons
- Announce Dyslexia Awareness Month on your school's website with a link to resources: <https://achieve.lausd.net/dyslexia>
- Dedicate a bulletin board highlighting famous people with dyslexia. A list can be found here: <https://www.dyslexia.com/about-dyslexia/dyslexic-achievers/all-achievers/>
- Hold a *ZYX Challenge* in which people attempt to recite the alphabet backwards in 45 seconds or less. See the International Dyslexia Association's website for more details and ideas:  
<https://dyslexiaida.org/october-is-dyslexia-awareness-month-2/>
- Make Dyslexia Fact sheets available in all offices:  
[Dyslexia Basics \(English\)](#)  
[Dyslexia Basics \(Spanish\)](#)  
[Dyslexia Fact Sheet \(English\)](#)  
[Dyslexia Fact Sheet \(Spanish\)](#)
- Hold a parent informational workshop
- Encourage the school community to change their social media profile picture to inform friends and followers that October is Dyslexia Awareness Month.
- Share the hashtags #DyslexiaAwareness, #DyslexiaAwarenessMonth, #WorldDyslexiaAwarenessDay, #UntilEveryoneCanRead

**RELATED  
RESOURCES:**

[BUL-045788.0: Identification and Educational Support of Students with Characteristics of Dyslexia](#), dated February 6, 2018

[BUL-6269.1: Multi-Tiered System \(MTSS\) of Behavior Support for Students with Disabilities](#), dated March 6, 2017

Board Resolution 101-16/17: *Recognizing and Addressing the Educational Implications of Dyslexia in LAUSD Schools*, Passed June 20, 2017



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California Dyslexia Guidelines California Department of Education, Issued  
October 13, 2017

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/ac/documents/cadyslexiaguidelines.pdf>

International Dyslexia Association. <https://dyslexiaida.org/>

Definition of MTSS, California Department of Education. (July 23, 2015)

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/ri/mtsscompri2.asp>

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