

My name is Joe Davenport. I am 16 years old and a junior at Vinal Technical High School in Middletown CT. I am proudly dyslexic.

I was diagnosed in 7th grade, at that time I was reading on a third grade level and decoding on a kindergarten level. I was and am the perfect example of how a kid can just slip through the cracks in today's public school system.

I want to thank the Education Committee for their support last year in passing law recognizing dyslexia as a separate line item on our IEP's. That step is only the first in helping dyslexic students, and keeping others from experiencing some of the difficulties I have had.

Dyslexics are bright, creative people. With our disability we use the front part of our brains where all the creative energy lies. With that you will find that dyslexics are outside of the box thinkers, and some of your most brilliant members of society.

What we dyslexics need is your help in teaching teachers on how to teach us.

1 in 5 students are dyslexic, if you have one parent that is dyslexic you have a 60% chance of being dyslexic and a 90% chance if both parents are dyslexic. That means you have a growing population of dyslexics, and fast.

Teaching what some may call 'normal students' the way dyslexics learn wouldn't be teaching them any less. I'd like to see these practices become part of everyday learning.

I ask you to consider bill 1054, consider the ripple effect your actions will have.

Thank you

Joe Davenport III