

My name is Christine Lindsay, I live in Norwalk, Connecticut. I fully support HB 7254, An Act Requiring Special Education Teachers to Complete a Program of Study in Evidence-Based Structured Literacy Interventions for Students with Dyslexia.

As the parent of a 13 year old son who has dyslexia there is URGENT need to train Special Education Teachers in Evidence Based Structured Literacy Interventions for students with dyslexia. Dyslexia is invisible and often misunderstood by teachers and administrators. In our experience Special Education teachers were frustrated and lacked appropriate training and strategies. When we first discovered our son had dyslexia we took our concerns to a PPT meeting and when the Special Educator presented her plan to have our son memorize flash cards we were horrified and confused! Before we even had the technical terms and knowledge about the semantics of reading, we wondered why an experienced, Special Education would present a plan like this. Learning to read is not a memorization skill especially for those with dyslexia (which makes up approximately 10% of the student population). Dyslexia is a neurology that can be taught to read! Fortunately we were able to get guidance through The Yale Center for Reading and Creativity. The private educators we took him to proved he was teachable. It took two summers of thrice weekly sessions and he now is a good reader. I cannot imagine what things would be like today if we had waited for him to memorize all those flash cards. This is not only my opinion but a story I have heard countless times by many other frustrated parents. Closing the reading gap would require early intervention that is APPROPRIATE and proven, in the end budgets would greatly benefit by early intervention as well.

Please pass HB 7254 to help teachers and students alike!

Christine Lindsay