OCTOBER 2018 - DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH IN ALABAMA

Awareness and Support

- Create awareness in your schools and communities for dyslexia by encouraging district communication/media personnel to create public service announcements, promoting local news articles, and district communication posts for local school websites.
- Utilize social media, school casts, morning messages, etc. using #CodeREaD-AL, the ARI hashtag for Alabama’s Dyslexia Awareness Month.
- Utilize Multisensory Structured Language Education (MSLE) trained teachers, school reading specialists, coaches, partners, parents, and community experts to host mini-workshops/seminars and open house community events.
- Create awareness of resources for support of dyslexia by promoting the International Dyslexia Association-Alabama Branch (IDA-AL) and the Alabama Reading Initiative Dyslexia Websites.
- Encourage groups to reach out to local experts and coordinate with local partners and stakeholders to develop year-round community awareness of dyslexia by providing facts, resources, and support to families.
- Encourage teachers and students to offer school/class proclamations and to wear red to demonstrate awareness and support in your school and community.

Instruction and Professional Learning

- Encourage teachers to participate in on-going professional learning related to evidence-based foundational reading strategies and effective multisensory strategies that support struggling readers and those with characteristics of dyslexia. Encourage attendance at the IDA-AL state dyslexia conference. IDA Alabama CODE REaD: IDA Fall Reading Conference, October 18-19, 2018, University of Mobile.
- Utilize MSLE trained teachers in your district to provide professional learning and in-class coaching and intervention support.
- Ensure that rigorous and relevant instruction and intervention in reading, writing, spelling, speaking, and listening align with the Alabama English Language Arts Course of Study grade level standards.
- Bring technology into the classroom to highlight the many ways in which students with dyslexia can express themselves and communicate by means other than writing. Consider a “No Pencil/Pen Day” storytelling competition by utilizing technology solutions such as text to speech, audio and/or video recordings, and recording through pictures so that all students can enjoy expressing themselves.

Additional Resources for Teachers, Administrators, and Parents:

- The International Dyslexia Association
- The International Dyslexia Association – Alabama Branch (IDA-AL)
- The Alabama Dyslexia Resource Guide
- The Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) Web site, Dyslexia Tab
- eLearning Alabama: Dyslexia Course, REA6451
- Dyslexia in the Classroom: What Every Teacher Needs to Know