



Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota

DDMN is a nonprofit grassroots organization supported by Minnesota families, educators, and professionals concerned with the limited access to appropriate evidence-based interventions for students within educational environments.

2022 Legislative Session

[SF2872](#) / [HF3300](#) Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) grant funding provided. Grants to Licensed teachers who teach in Kindergarten through grade five to complete the LETRS program. MDE will administer the grants and provide guidance. \$33,000,000 appropriated.

Why LETRS?

MCA reading results have remained low and stagnant for years.

- MCA 3rd grade reading results in 2019 (MDE, Minnesota Report Card):
 - 45.2% of MN students were not proficient.
 - 64.8% of MN students eligible for free/reduced-price meals were not proficient.
 - Of the 62,299 3rd grade students who took the MCA, 28,162 were not proficient.
 - This equates to a reading crisis. There has been no significant improvement in scores since Read Well by 3rd Grade (120B.12) legislation was passed.

LETRS is professional development grounded in the Science of Reading.

- LETRS is Professional Development and teacher training, not a curriculum.
- It provides a depth of knowledge using the science of reading. This includes language and literacy skills and practice to successfully address struggling K–12 students:
 - Literacy for all emerging readers and literacy for dyslexic students are bound together by the science of reading.
 - The science of reading is the multi-disciplined research into how the human brain learns to read.
 - All readers learn best with these teaching approaches, but dyslexic children **MUST** have it to learn to read.
- A 2016 survey conducted with Education MN found that 96% of teachers said they had experience working with struggling readers who seemed unresponsive to intervention.
- LETRS is a solution that teachers are craving. It invests in our literacy teachers and addresses the root of the reading crisis. This is not a temporary Band-Aid solution.
- Teachers in Minnesota have not been offered this training as part of their pre-service higher education programs.

IDA accreditation is missing in Minnesota.

- Throughout the United States, there are college-level programs accredited by the International Dyslexia Association (IDA). The State of Minnesota has no colleges or universities that have received this IDA accreditation. LETRS is an IDA accredited teacher training program

