

3/2/2025

Dear Chair Cwodsinski and Senate Education Policy Committee Members,

My name is Rachel Thelemann, my child attends/attended school in Minneapolis District and I live in Minneapolis, MN.

I am writing to you as a concerned parent on behalf of my dyslexic child and all struggling readers to urge you to support the SF1842 that requires teachers to receive two hours of professional development on dyslexia for teacher licensure requirements.

My daughter is a freshman at Washburn High School and was flagged by the school district in second grade. She was selected to receive reading help at school. The school district told us that she was two grade levels behind the rest of her class and that she just needed extra reading help. During this year, my daughter continued to struggle and started to struggle with math during this time. I started to realize the help she was getting was not helping her, it was making my daughters experiencing more stress and challenges. I also have dyslexia so I was pretty certain my daughter may have it too. I talked to the reading teachers and I told them what I thought might be going on. The teacher told me they were not trained to catch dyslexia so often times it goes undetected. I could not afford to get her assessed so I found a tutor that was trained in Orton-Gillingham which works specially with students who struggle with dyslexia. This changed my daughter's life and she started to thrive in school due to the proper tutor and knowledge about dyslexia. I feel this would be very helpful for teachers and a way to help direct parents so they know the right channels to help their child. My daughter is now at her grade level for reading and does very well in English 9 and math.

Dyslexic students will benefit when they have teachers who understand the difficulties that they have. Without teacher understanding, dyslexic students are blamed their struggle, rather than being helped. I urge you to support this small step toward helping the 20% of students in our schools who are dyslexic.

Sincerely,
Rachel Thelemann
Minneapolis School District 1