



LEARNING DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

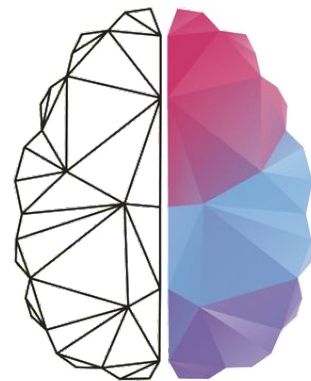
Save the Date!

In the United States, 1 in 5 people have learning and thinking differences, like dyslexia and ADHD. For these people, the world can feel like it's built for a normal that doesn't include them. This October marks the beginning of an important month for these students who have learning and attention issues.

October is Learning Disability (LD) Awareness Month, ADHD Awareness Month, and Dyslexia Awareness Month.

According to the Learning Disabilities Association of America's website, October was originally designated in the US as LD month in 1985 through a proclamation by President Ronald Reagan. Organizations across the US use this month to inform the public about learning disabilities. Raising awareness among educators, parents, and the general public can help create a world where children with learning disabilities like dyslexia and attention issues like ADHD are accepted, understood and able to thrive.

Even though students with learning and attention issues face some challenges in certain areas of learning – like reading, writing, or math – these students often have unique skills as well and have great [successes](#). These conditions are not so much a disability, as they are a brain difference, and our differences make us who we are.



Unfortunately, helpful resources can be hard to find, making everyday more difficult, but with the right tools and support, people who learn and think differently will have a greater ability to thrive. With that in mind, our PTA has gathered resources here, with the hope of raising awareness, supporting our students and families, and creating a more inclusive community.

What are some common learning disabilities?

	Difficulty	Strengths
Dyslexia	Reading	Strong 3D visual skills
Dysgraphia	Writing	Empathy
Dyscalculia	Math	Creativity
DCD (Dyspraxia)	Movement	Communication
ADD/ADHD	Attention	Problem Solving

See some of these disabilities [through a child's eyes](#)

Learn More about Dyslexia

What is Dyslexia (video): <https://youtu.be/zafiGBrFkRM>

Dyslexia is a learning disability in reading. People with dyslexia have trouble reading at a good pace and without mistakes. They may also have a hard time with reading comprehension, spelling, and writing.

In 2018, Washington lawmakers approved [legislation](#) to screen kindergarten through second grade students for the learning weaknesses associated with dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities. [Screening](#) is to start by fall [2021](#).

The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) provides information about [Dyslexia](#) and has the [Washington State Dyslexia Resource Guide](#) available for download.

More Resources:

[Understood.org](#)

[International Dyslexia Association](#)
[Made By Dyslexia](#)

Community Resources:

Facebook: Dyslexia Support - Washington State

Facebook: Decoding Dyslexia - WA

Learn More About Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

What is ADD/ADHD (video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouZrZa5pLXk>

ADHD is a common condition that's caused by differences in the brain. People with ADHD have trouble with focus. Some are also hyperactive and impulsive. People with ADHD have trouble with a group of skills known as executive function, where they struggle with getting organized, following directions and managing emotions. This is not a matter of willpower.

More Resources:

[Attention Deficit Disorder Association](#)

[Understood.org](#)

[ADHD Awareness Month](#)

Special Education Resources

Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

[What is Special Education](#)

[Section 504 & Students with Disabilities](#)

[Identification of Students with Specific Learning Disabilities](#)

[Eligibility for Special Education](#)

Kent School District

[Inclusive Education Criteria and Process](#)

[Section 504 Support Services](#)