



Promoting literacy through research, education, and advocacy.

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Governor Proclaims October as Dyslexia Awareness Month

Nebraskans encouraged to learn about dyslexia, offer support to affected individuals, and recognize efforts of those who assist them.

(October 11, 2006) – At a ceremony on October 18 at the state capitol, Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman will proclaim October as *Dyslexia Awareness Month*. The proclamation encourages Nebraskans to learn more about dyslexia, offer support to those affected by the disorder, and recognize the efforts of educators, organizations, family and community members who assist them.

Dyslexia, which comes from the Greek word for “difficulty with words,” is a language-based, neurological disorder that affects the ability to read, write, and spell proficiently. It can affect anyone, regardless of sex, age, ethnicity, or socio-economic background. Dyslexia is not related to an individual's lack of intelligence or desire to learn.

“With proper diagnosis, appropriate instruction, hard work, and support from families, teachers, and friends, individuals with dyslexia can excel in school and at work,” says Carolyn Brandle, president of the *Nebraska Branch of the International Dyslexia Association* (NE-IDA) and a veteran special education instructor. “Dedicated teachers and educational therapists throughout Nebraska are diligently working with students and adults to minimize or end the devastating effects of dyslexia.”

The NE-IDA recently hosted a statewide conference to raise awareness about the neurological basis for dyslexia. The conference also helped support the Nebraska Department of Education's statewide “Response to Intervention” (RTI) initiative, which helps educators determine the best type of instruction to help serve struggling students earlier, more effectively and more efficiently.

More information about dyslexia is available on the International Dyslexia Association website at www.interdys.org or the Nebraska Branch website at www.ne-ida.com.

The mission of the Nebraska Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (www.ne-ida.com) is to improve educational opportunities for students with reading, writing and spelling deficits; promote education of teachers in research-based approaches to reading instruction; work with teacher education providers to require researched-based training for teacher certification; and provide information and support to parents and the public on reading problems.