

Hello Honorable Members of the Maryland State Senate,

My name is Alex Murphy and I am in fifth grade. I have dyslexia. I have a hard time with spelling, reading, and writing. When I was in public school I felt frustrated. There was one book that I couldn't read so I would just look at the pictures during reading time. It took me twice as long to take the standardized test then all the other students. Most students take it in one day and I took two days.

My parents now have me in a private school for kids with dyslexia. My reading teacher at my current school teaches me how to decode words, practices spelling different words, and we practice reading sentences by playing games. In language arts we write paragraphs and we take a lot of time learning how to write a good paragraph using different colors for the different types of sentences in our paragraphs.

I think the Reading and Dyslexia Handbook- HB 0237/SB 126 is a good idea because it's like a guide for teachers and parents to know what dyslexia is and how to teach kids with dyslexia. When I was at my public school they didn't really know about dyslexia. This handbook would be written by people who know a lot about dyslexia and reading. They can share what they know about how kids learn to read. The handbook can also explain how to teach kids to read. I think it's important that all kids would be taught to read.

Not all kids will have a chance to go to a private school like me. Therefore, I think ALL kids should have the opportunity to learn the way their brain needs to. Thank you for your time and consideration of supporting HB 0237/SB126.

Alex Murphy (Age 10)
7432 Flamewood Drive
Clarksville, MD