

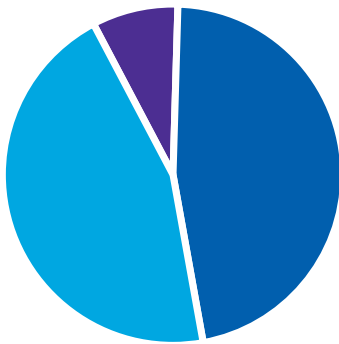
THE HIDDEN COSTS OF DYSLEXIA



Closing the Learning and Financial Gap for Students with Dyslexia

Today, an estimated 10 million American students struggle with reading—about one in five—a staggering number. An estimated 80% of these struggling readers are dyslexic. A student's inability to read can have a profound impact on his or her academic and emotional development. It can also impact their teachers, families and communities.

STATES PROVIDE NEARLY HALF OF SCHOOL FUNDING



47%

STATE REVENUE

44%

LOCAL REVENUE

9%

FEDERAL REVENUE

Source: Census Bureau.
Public Elementary-Secondary Education
Finance Report, June 2018

If children with dyslexia go undiagnosed or do not receive appropriate reading interventions, they face years of frustration and will most likely never reach their true learning potential.

In fact, about 41% of students with learning disabilities like dyslexia will fail to graduate from high school.

What are the costs of not supporting struggling readers?

The lack of reading proficiency is a key reason why an estimated 8,000 students drop out each day—limiting their financial potential and ability to compete in the workforce.

The long-term impact of dyslexia

- One dropout will cost U.S. taxpayers \$260,000 over a lifetime.
- Only 35% of adults with low literacy skills are actively employed.
- Adults with low literacy skills earn \$28,000 less on average than other adults.
- By 2020, the U.S. will have 1.5 million too few college-educated workers.

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Students with dyslexia who don't get the support they need struggle in the classroom and beyond. The impact is felt not just by the students, but also by their classmates, teachers and families, and eventually, their fellows in the workplace and the nation as a whole.

Five money-saving tips and techniques to close the learning gap for students with dyslexia

1. Implement early screening techniques to identify students with reading challenges. This can save schools tens of thousands of dollars not to mention lessening the heartache and frustration of students, teachers and families.

2. Pool federal, state and local funding streams. Investigate grant monies from your local school boards to enable your district to maximize systemic reading support across all grades and instructional environments.

3. Provide reading accommodations as early as possible. Students who struggle to read attend both special and general education classes. Are you accommodating these students? Some students may have an IEP or a 504 plan that requires a reading accommodation, but many others also need this support to be successful.

4. Educate teachers and administrators on the benefits of human-read audiobooks. Audiobooks offer struggling readers access to grade-level material, including textbooks, literature and popular reading in easy-to-absorb digital formats. They also promote independent reading by enabling students to read books at school or at home without Internet access.

5. Give teachers data-driven performance tools to manage reading assignments and monitor students' reading goals. With educator tools and resources, like those in Learning Ally, teachers can track students' reading progress in real time, gaining valuable insight in to their student's reading preferences and habits, and enabling them to individualize their reading material and goals.

LEARNING ALLY is a leading nonprofit education solutions organization dedicated to equipping educators with proven solutions that help struggling learners reach their potential. Our range of literacy-focused offerings for students Pre-K to 12th grade and catalog of professional learning allow us to support more than 99,000 educators across the US. The Learning Ally Audiobook Solution is our cornerstone award-winning reading accommodation used in more than 17,500 schools to help students with reading deficits succeed. Composed of high quality, human-read audiobooks and a suite of teacher resources to monitor and support student progress, it is designed to turn struggling readers into engaged learners. For more information, visit www.LearningAlly.org.