

My son's dyslexia journey started in pre-school. He is currently in 3rd grade in the SMSD. He is falling behind, no one seems to understand how dyslexic kids learn. At first they told us it was his sight, then his hearing, "have that checked." When that was normal, teachers began to say maybe he was ADHD but he didn't meet that criteria and demonstrates no behavior problems. The entire time I have been asking for testing because I thought something was wrong. I have been quieted, put off, dismissed, ignored and belittled. I am not the only parent whom has experienced this in the district. There are many of us. We need help for our children. Dyslexia affects more than just reading. It affects processing, confidence, reading, math, the ability to follow and understand directions and a wide variety of other areas socially and academically. Until about 10 days ago, SMSD had no specialists for dyslexia in the entire district. Schools like my son's expect children with this learning disability to improve by giving them tutoring with a school secretary who doubles as a para and giving them, like my son, an IEP that only covers two 30 min sessions per week with a SLP.

Meanwhile, my child continues to decline in the area of mathematics especially. The offer? More tutoring with teachers after school who have NO training in dyslexia and/or somehow trying to find a way for him to see a specialist that my insurance doesn't cover. The only problem is, that specialist works the same hours as I do. In order to get my son the help he needs, I have to compromise our livelihood because his school is not equipped to handle his needs.

As parents, we need help. Our kids need your help. Please pass HB 2602

Sincerely

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