

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS: Dyslexia is a specific learning disability, which is neurological in origin and is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. This language-processing disorder can hinder reading, writing, spelling, and sometimes even speaking, despite normal vision and intelligence; and
- WHEREAS: Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge, along with difficulty in the classroom setting; and
- WHEREAS: Literacy and numeric skills are critical for educational success, and research has revealed that students who read at grade level by third grade vastly outperform those who do not read at grade level and continue to do so consistently throughout their educational careers; and
- WHEREAS: Research conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) indicates that as many as one-in-every-five individuals struggles with dyslexia and related learning disabilities, and the NIH also reports that dyslexia can be identified with 92 percent accuracy by the time a child is six years old; and
- WHEREAS: National studies show that 13 to 40 percent of juveniles involved in the criminal justice system have a learning disability; and
- WHEREAS: Kids with dyslexia all across Arkansas need to be recognized early and can benefit from effective early educational interventions; and
- WHEREAS: Families and teachers across Arkansas would benefit from increased awareness and early recognition of dyslexia as well as effective scientifically-based strategies to improve reading achievement and minimize associated emotional disorders; and
- WHEREAS: Parents and educators of students who strive to overcome dyslexia across Arkansas and the nation have come together to support and advocate for their children;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim October 2017 as

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I urge all my fellow citizens to join me in raising awareness of the challenges posed by dyslexia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 4th day of October, in the year of our Lord 2017.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

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Mark Martin, Secretary Of State