



WYOMING DYSLEXIA'S CRISIS

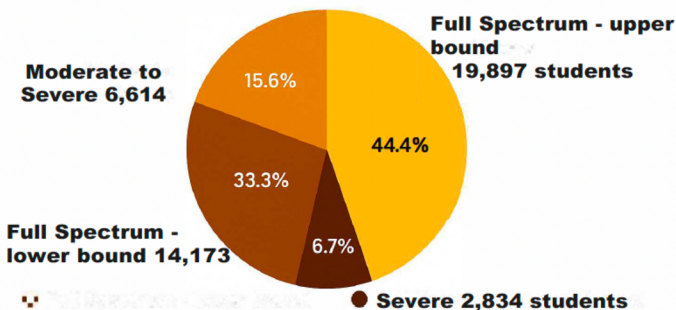
Research from the National Institutes of Health and the International Dyslexia Association shows that 15-20% of the population has dyslexia, with 3-7% experiencing moderate to severe forms.

- Mild dyslexia: Most cases; often manageable with consistent support.
- Moderate to severe dyslexia (3-7%): Students cannot learn to read or spell without explicit, systematic Structured Literacy instruction delivered by highly trained teachers.


Applied to Wyoming's 94,488 K-12 students, an estimated 14,000-18,900 struggle with dyslexia, including 2,800-6,600 with moderate to severe needs. For these students, Structured Literacy isn't optional—it's essential to unlock their right to read.

Estimated Number of Wyoming Students with Dyslexia

(2025 Enrollment: 94,488)



WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

- Screen all K-12 students regularly for signs of dyslexia.
 - Require all educators and support staff to complete training in the science of reading and structured literacy.
 - Ensure every reading teacher is trained in evidence-based programs (e.g., Wilson, Barton).
 - Publish an approved list of screeners, evidence-based programs, and trainings.
 - Ensure instructional fidelity through certification or supervised practice by certified instructors
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- Establish a Literacy Department within WDE with at least two certified Structured Literacy Specialists to lead statewide support and oversight.

Literacy and incarceration:

- **85% of juveniles** in the **criminal justice system** are **functionally illiterate**
- 80% of prisoners are illiterate or functionally illiterate
- The only place a person is **guaranteed** to be screened for **dyslexia and taught how to read** is **Federal Prison** thanks to the First Step Act — a bipartisan bill signed into federal law in 2018
- School-to-prison pipeline: Students with disabilities are twice as likely to be suspended, expelled, or arrested. Poor reading skills linked to dyslexia often lead to behavior issues and disciplinary actions.

Mental Health Implications:

Students with dyslexia face 2-3 times higher rates of **depression, anxiety, and suicide attempts**, often worsened by bullying over reading struggles.

MISSION STATEMENT

WYO Right to Read is a Wyoming-based nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that every child with dyslexia and related reading difficulties has the fundamental right to evidence-based reading instruction, delivered with fidelity by fully qualified and trained teachers. We are committed to advancing educational equity, empowering families, and holding schools accountable so that all children can achieve the lifelong right of literacy.



www.wyorighttoread.org