



ADDRESSING DYSLEXIA SUPPORT DISPARITIES

A Call for Equitable Policies
British Columbia, Canada

Dyslexia is a learning difference that affects the way individuals process language, making reading and writing challenging.



5-10 %

BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA
HAS DYSLEXIA

DYSLEXIA SOCIAL POLICY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA



All children with special needs should have equal access educational opportunities.



Individuals with dyslexia face not only competition in the workplace or academia but also a system unprepared for their specific needs, leading to continuous self-advocacy and the stress of playing catch-up.



Dyslexia, unrelated to intelligence or vision issues, can be navigated successfully with proper support and interventions, allowing individuals to thrive academically and contribute beyond the educational sphere.



Mental health issues

(According to Decoding Dyslexia)
40% of students with learning differences, including many with dyslexia, experience mental health issues including anxiety and depression



B.C. government needs to do more

Along with other dyslexia advocates, like UBC Professor Emeritus in Language Sciences Linda Siegel, Hornell says stigma around the disorder still looms large and the B.C. government needs to do more to help people who live with it.



Dyslexia affects up to 20% of Canadians

80% of whom go undiagnosed

meaning that they often live without access to adequate support.



Assessments are either expensive or take years

UBC prof says, assessments are either expensive or take years. "You can get a private assessment, but that costs between \$2,000 to \$3,000, and people don't have that money," she said, adding that there are public assessments in B.C. but wait times can be as long as two years.



In British Columbia only about

3% of the students get reported to the Ministry of Education

as having a learning disability on an annual basis



A survey by the hLearning Disabilities Association of Canada found that:

almost **50%** of adolescent suicides have a diagnosis of a learning disability.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DYSLEXIA OFTEN FACE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES DUE TO DISPARITIES IN SUPPORT



One major disparity is the difference in access to resources.

Some students with dyslexia may have access to specialized reading programs, assistive technology, and individualized support, while others may not have these resources available to them. This disparity can greatly impact their ability to succeed academically and reach their full potential.



Disparities in educational opportunities

Some schools may have dedicated dyslexia programs or trained educators who understand the needs of dyslexic students, while others may not have these resources in place.



This lack of support can lead to

Frustration, low self-esteem, and a sense of being left behind. It is crucial to highlight these disparities to advocate for equal access to resources and educational opportunities for all individuals with dyslexia.

EQUITABLE POLICIES AND ACTION STEPS



Dyslexia support disparities can be addressed through the implementation of key policies.



Inclusive education should be prioritized to ensure equal access to quality education for students with dyslexia.



Accommodations and support services tailored to the needs of students with dyslexia should be provided.



These key policies aim to reduce disparities in dyslexia support.



The ultimate goal is to provide every student with an equal opportunity to succeed.



The policies should prioritize the needs of students with dyslexia.



Implementation of these policies can help bridge the gap in dyslexia support.



The policies are aimed at creating a more inclusive and supportive educational environment for students with dyslexia.



Teacher training is crucial in equipping educators with the knowledge and strategies to effectively support students with dyslexia.



Accessible resources, such as assistive technology, audio books, and alternative reading formats, should be made available to students with dyslexia.

By implementing these key policies, we can work towards reducing the disparities in dyslexia support and providing every student with an equal opportunity to succeed.