

Dyslexia is in the Law

On Feb. 18, 2016 President Obama signed the Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia Act ([READ Act](#)).

We who work toward helping those who struggle to learn to read because of dyslexia are cheering! Not only because the word “dyslexia” is right there in the title, but also because it clearly states that 1 in 6 American school children have “dyslexia”. Seeing what we have known for so long in print in this law is encouraging.

It is especially fitting that this act was signed in February. Dr. Samuel T. Orton, in whose memory the Orton Dyslexia Society was founded (later renamed to the International Dyslexia Association) had an article published in the February 1929 issue of the *Journal of Educational Psychology*. Its title is “The ‘Sight-Reading’ Method of Teaching Reading as a Source of Reading Disability.”

Eighty seven years ago, Dr. Orton professed his researched theory on what doesn’t work and conversely how this group of students needs to be taught. What should be done and what must be done has been known for a long time. And we know why dyslexic children must be included in the reading population.

As Guinevere Eden, Director of Georgetown University's Center for the Study of Learning, and former President of the International Dyslexia Association stated, "Reading is the single most important skill our children learn – it impacts virtually every aspect of a child's life." We hope the READ Act will do what we know needs to be done.

Because it certainly is time.

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