



*Promoting literacy through research, education, and advocacy.™*

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Vermont Agency of Education  
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Dear Representative Kathryn Webb, Education Committee Chair, Vermont State Legislature,

We, the Board of Directors at the New Hampshire International Dyslexia Association (NHIDA), serving Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, are thrilled to see that the Vermont Agency of Education has taken a leadership role in promoting the science of reading. We stand by your side, ready to support your efforts to train teachers and equip every school to teach ALL students to read and write proficiently through structured literacy. At this time, we are also speaking with educational leaders at both the local and state levels in Maine and New Hampshire.

We are excited to share that NHIDA has initiated the process of changing our name to equitably represent all the states we serve. Under the proposed name, Northern New England International Dyslexia Association (NNEIDA), our mission will remain unchanged. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit scientific and educational organization, promoting awareness about dyslexia (language-based learning disability) and dedicated to the diagnosis, treatment, and research of dyslexia. We engage in the following activities:

1. Educating the community about the causes, symptoms, assessment and remediation of dyslexia;
2. Disseminating information about available resources;
3. Teaching multisensory structured-language instructional approaches to educators and other professionals; and
4. Collaborating with organizations working on behalf of people with dyslexia, including state departments and agencies.

Passed by the Vermont Legislature last spring, Act 28, "improving prekindergarten through grade 12 literacy within the State," has lit the flame to make rapid change for increasing evidence-based literacy instruction in every Vermont school. We were very impressed with Ms. DeCarolis's recent testimony updating the public on the Agency's efforts. We at NHIDA can help the Agency in fulfilling the objectives underway by:

1. Reviewing candidates and organizations responding to the Agency's Request for Proposals for developing professional training;
2. Supporting the mission and members of the Early Literacy Network Improvement Community;
3. Reviewing college course syllabi for the Educator Preparation Program Literacy Syllabi Project;
4. Supporting Agency staff who lead literacy initiatives (happy to be a sounding board); and
5. Assisting the Vermont Advisory Council on Literacy.

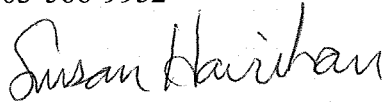
Please consider us at the NHIDA as a resource. Our membership is represented by an active Board of Directors, including experts in evidence-based reading curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The NHIDA is free from ties to specific programs on the market, and thus fair in expressing judgment and providing advisement. In fact, our Board members are regularly contacted by colleagues and parents across the country seeking recommendations. Among us are professors of education, curriculum directors, reading/literacy specialists, teacher trainers, and parents, all volunteers devoted to ensuring every student learns to read well and access every opportunity as fully literate, contributing members of their families, communities, the workforce, and our nation.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the entire NHIDA Board of Directors,



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