

The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) has helped individuals with dyslexia and their families for more than 70 years. We do this work not only because we know that dyslexia exists, but also because we know how to help those who struggle to read. Therefore, we will continue to do what we do best: develop and provide support and resources for individuals with dyslexia and their families and prepare teachers to implement what works—Structured Literacy.

We realize that some educators and reading professionals still do not embrace the science of reading or even accept dyslexia's existence, even though both are supported by solid findings from decades of multidisciplinary research (visit DyslexiaIDA.org for more information about both). We also appreciate that many professionals can and do respectfully disagree about some of the complexities and nuances that still surround dyslexia as well as effective reading instruction.

But let's not lose sight of what we all are trying to accomplish and what is at stake. Recent NAEP scores highlight how much work needs to be done to improve reading instruction, especially for children at risk, such as those with dyslexia. We cannot allow ourselves to be distracted as we work to advance reading instruction for ALL children across the nation and around the world. That is our collective vision and our "true north," one that helps us navigate turbulent waters and find common ground.

IDA welcomes opportunities to share the substantial body of knowledge and practices that underlie science-based reading instruction (also known as Structured Literacy) and we are pleased to host conferences supporting thoughtful discourse and exploration from various perspectives.

Peace to all during this holiday season and in the coming New Year.

Sonja Banks,
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