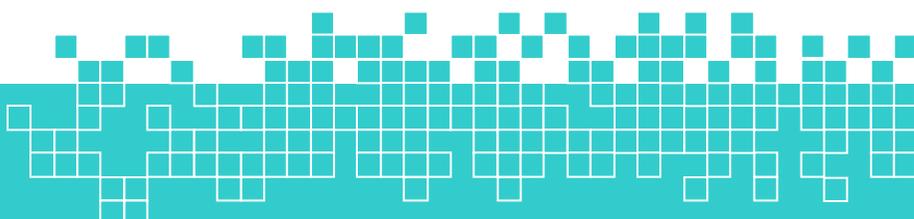




Sue Bridgman – Founder
501c3 Nonprofit Organization
1020 9th Street, Greeley, CO 80631
By Appointment Only
970-405-4967
Bridgingthegapsdyslexiacenter@gmail.com

Stats & Facts

- 1 in 5 of all people worldwide have dyslexia. – Dr. Sally Shaywitz, Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity.
- 8.5 Million American students have dyslexia. – Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia Act (READ Act) (H.R. 3033)
- 85% of students with Learning Disabilities have dyslexia. - <https://decodingdyslexiatn.org>
- Only 68% of students with Learning Disabilities leave high school with a regular diploma while 19% drop out and 12% receive a certificate of completion. - <https://decodingdyslexiatn.org>
- 85% of youth in juvenile detention facilities have disabilities that make them eligible for special education services, yet only 37% receive these services while in school. – National Council on Disabilities. June 18, 2015. Breaking the School-to- Prison Pipeline For Students with Disabilities.
- 80% of prison inmates in Texas are functionally illiterate. 48% have dyslexia. – Prevalence of Dyslexia Among Texas Prison Inmates. Moody KC, et al Tex Med 2000.
- Students with learning disabilities like dyslexia have a three times higher risk of attempting suicide. – Suicidality, School Dropout and Reading Problems Among Adolescents. Journal of Learning Disabilities, vol. 39,6: pp 507-514. First published Nov. 1 2006.
- 89% of suicide notes have dyslexic-type spellings in them. – Learning Disabilities and Adolescent Suicide. Journal of Learning Disabilities, Vol. 30, 6: pp 652-659. Published first Nov. 1, 1997. (Decoding Dyslexia TN, n.d.)





WASHINGTON— U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA), a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, released the following statement after meeting with Senior Advisor to the President Jared Kushner about prison reform. During the conversation, Cassidy stressed the need to identify and address dyslexia in early education in order to prevent students from being consigned to a path of illiteracy, crime, and incarceration.

“I thank Jared for prioritizing prison reform and meeting to discuss solutions,” **said Dr. Cassidy.** “I shared with him that while conducting health clinics in the Louisiana prison system, I learned that illiteracy is a major risk factor for someone turning to a life of crime. And it makes sense that if someone learns to read, they’re more likely to be gainfully employed once they are released from prison, and more likely to become productive members of society. Dyslexia is a leading cause of illiteracy; to address illiteracy and incarceration, we must better address dyslexia.”

[A study](#) found that 80 percent of prison inmates at the state prison in Huntsville, Texas, were functionally illiterate and 48 percent were dyslexic.

In May 2016, [Cassidy chaired a HELP Committee hearing](#) on understanding dyslexia. The hearing featured [actor Ameer Baraka](#), a New Orleans native who struggled with dyslexia as a student and turned to selling drugs. Barak discussed how he [taught himself to read in prison](#) on Fox News in April 2017.

In February 2016, [Cassidy’s READ Act was signed into law](#) by President Obama. The legislation requires the National Science Foundation (NSF) to [devote at least \\$2.5 million to dyslexia research](#) every year.

In 2015, [Cassidy hosted world experts on dyslexia](#) for a discussion at Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, and chaired HELP Committee [field hearings on dyslexia and education in New Orleans and Baton Rouge](#).

Each year, Senator Cassidy introduces a resolution in the Senate [designating October as National Dyslexia Awareness Month](#).

<https://www.cassidy.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/photo-cassidy-discusses-prison-reform-with-jared-kushner-stresses-need-to-address-dyslexia->

