MYTHS VS. FACTS
Breaking down the truth about dyslexia.

**MYTH**

- All students with dyslexia demonstrate the same problems with reading.
- Dyslexia is a reading disorder that is based in vision problems, which causes people to read backward or mix up b and d.
- People with dyslexia cannot learn to read.
- Intelligent people cannot have dyslexia.
- All students with dyslexia will perform poorly on tests of phonological processing.
- We can predict who will respond to instruction.
- There is a silver bullet to remediate dyslexia.

**FACT**

- Dyslexia exists on a continuum, and students with dyslexia demonstrate different levels of difficulty learning to read.
- Dyslexia is a brain-based disorder associated with impairments in the brain regions associated with manipulation of sounds, not vision.
- Reading may require significantly more effort and academic support for someone with dyslexia, but these students can learn to read!
- Dyslexia impacts individuals with a range of cognitive skills, and with average to above average intelligence. Some individuals with dyslexia have well above average abilities in problem-solving and creativity. However, these above average skills do not exist because an individual has dyslexia.
- While many students with or at risk for dyslexia get low scores on phonological processing tests, approximately 25-30% of these students will do fine on these measures. This is why it is important to collect multiple sources of data to identify all students who are demonstrating word reading difficulties, and to provide appropriate evidence-based reading instruction.
- Research is still ongoing regarding which specific intervention is best for students with or at risk for dyslexia. All students who have or are at risk for dyslexia should receive evidence-based reading instruction, and their progress should be monitored over time. Closely monitoring students’ response to instruction over time is one of the best ways to determine whether the instruction being provided meets the student’s needs or other instructional programs or supports are needed.
- Providing students with dyslexia with evidence-based reading instruction and the necessary supports to succeed involves many individuals within a school system. Schools should:
  - Screen all students for dyslexia risk.
  - Provide high-quality, evidence-based reading instruction to all students with or at risk for dyslexia.
  - Intensify supports for students who need them to succeed and individualize intervention for students with dyslexia.
  - Continue to nurture students’ interests and strengths to help them become successful learners.

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