

Members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Dyslexia Legislation.

My name is Dr. Scott Smith, and I'm a native Oregonian and a third-generation dyslexic. My public-school experience, was not the best time of my life. I am currently an instructional coach for Intermountain ESD in Pendleton.

All children can learn! Just as there are different cars, there are different learning styles, and when we know the learning style, we are able to adjust instruction so all students are successful and are able to successfully read.

I have been active in providing dyslexia teacher trainings, mainly in Eastern Oregon as outlined in SB1003 and also providing support with research-based instructional strategies to the districts we serve. Approximately 100 teachers have completed the three-training series at the ESD. I have continued to follow up with those teachers during this year. Schools have now completed the second screening and we are currently looking at their data. There appears to be great confusion on the process and understanding of how to implement research-based instruction using the screeners.

Research-based instruction doesn't come from a textbook, the instructor has to fully understand the skills sequences along with the ability to adjust instruction to the type of learner. I see teachers wanting to put students in programs versus providing research-based strategies on specific skills a student is missing, causing frustration for both teacher and student. Having

one teacher in the building who understands and has participated in the trainings is a great start but ALL primary teachers should have this knowledge.

Just like in our medical field, new discoveries are made every day. The same is true with instruction and learning, yet many teachers are not provided the opportunities to study these findings, especially in Eastern Oregon. Therefore, teachers rely on past practice. As a cancer survivor, I'm so thankful that my doctors were up on the latest medical research to treat my cancer rather than treat it as they did 40 years ago. The children of Oregon deserve to have teachers who are current with strategies to teach to all learning styles and students especially dyslexia. We cannot continue to teach reading as it was taught in the 1960's with "Dick and Jane" and a publisher's program of one size fits all.

We have a great start and need to continue to provide teacher trainings and school support through funding the dyslexia legislation.

Thank you for your time.