

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, dyslexia is a language-based learning disability of neurological origin which interferes with language processing, accurate and/or fluent word recognition, spelling and decoding abilities and reading comprehension despite normal or above-average intelligence; and

**WHEREAS**, dyslexia can affect anyone, regardless of race, gender, culture or socioeconomic status and impacts as much as 20% of the population or 1 out of every 5 individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, dyslexia varies in severity and is characterized by a combination of difficulties in reading, writing, spelling, handwriting, and/or math, which can create a wide gap between an individual's intellectual ability and their academic and personal achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, dyslexia is identifiable as early as 4-6 years of age and early intervention is essential because the negative consequences are preventable through effective, direct, explicit instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension; and

**WHEREAS**, when individuals have access to early intervention, the human and economic costs of dyslexia to society are significantly reduced; and

**WHEREAS**, literacy for all is an important goal for the state of Washington and dyslexia affects a high percentage of our struggling readers; it is imperative that we learn to recognize and to address this treatable condition so all Washingtonians are able to learn to read and spell proficiently and achieve to their full potential;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 2015 as

### *Dyslexia Awareness Month in Washington*

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.



Signed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee