

Our three children have become successful readers not because of the public school system but in spite of it. All three of our children are dyslexic and struggled learning to read. The absence of appropriate methods of teaching dyslexic children to read forced us to ultimately remove our children from public school in favor of home school. In addition, public school was actually painful for them as they came home with daily headaches and stomach aches from the stress. We tried to work within the school system but they would not support us nor would they accommodate our children's learning difference. It became painfully obvious that the school didn't understand what dyslexia was nor what to do with dyslexic students. What makes this even more frustrating is that our children are all 5 years apart in age. You would think that in ten years they would have made progress in educating dyslexic students. But that has not been the case. The National Reading Panel Report was published and made available to all school districts in the year 2000 and pretty much ignored by the schools. This is unfortunate and probably somewhat negligent on their part because this report detailed research based upon thirty-five years of data and provided sound advice and strategies on how to teach all children to read successfully. The correct information is available but schools just refused to educate themselves and take corrective action to fix the problem of dyslexic students failing to read. Actually lots of Kansas students across the state are failing to read not just dyslexics. We are fortunate that we have had the time and financial resources available to allow us to homeschool our children and teach them to read, write and spell properly. Our two oldest eventually returned to public school after a period of time and have gone on to be successful academically including college. But what about those students for whom home school or private tutoring is not an option? Something has to change. Our children will be all right because we figured out how to help them. The schools and the educational system in the State of Kansas must do the right thing and address this learning gap/issue to ensure future generations don't wind up functional illiterates. Respectfully Submitted for Testimony,

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