

Hello,

I'm so excited to see that something is finally happening with Dyslexia. My son has it and he is now 19 years old and a freshman in college. He went to USD 501 in Topeka and he had some awesome teachers. But, to receive any kind of IEP or help, we had to have a diagnosis of ADHD, which his Psychiatrist was not certain that he had. He thought he had anxiety from the Dyslexia which made it seem like ADHD. Also, Austen was tested constantly by the school district but their test never really pin-pointed the problem. His elementary principal, to whom I did not get along with, even wanted him tested for Asperger's. When I told her that she was describing his Dyslexia and not Asperger's, she argued with me telling me I didn't know what Dyslexia was. This infuriated me! I had to pay out the ying-yang for private tutoring. I was on a tight budget and this was a hardship. USD 501 refused to put Dyslexia down in his IEP. I had him privately diagnosed at Family Service and Guidance Center by Dr. Berg when he was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The cost was \$650. This was back in 2002 and it was very expensive. I'm sure the cost is quite a bit more now. USD 501 kept the report from FSGC for a couple of years but when I asked them about it being in his file in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade it had "disappeared". However, they did use it because in his IEP there was wording that came directly from that report. Basically, I had to go through a lot of hoops and be a fighting activist for my son. My hope is that this Senate Bill 44 will help parents and children not have to go through what my son or I did. And, that school districts will start using programs such as Orton-Gillingham.

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